



# Tuesday's Tip

information provided by Adriaance Memorial Library to make your life a little bit easier . . . .

Massive Open Online Courses = MOOCs

December 9, 2014

Are you one of those people who can't seem to learn enough? MOOCs are a haven for the perpetually curious, and an opportunity for learning from some of the best faculty in institutions worldwide for FREE; a potential boon for those who can't afford to pay college tuition! They run the gamut from short workshop classes to semester-long courses, and some even offer certification of completion and/or final exams for free (...or for an exam fee—still much less than full course enrollment tuition). We covered the free online learning site [Khan Academy](#) in a previous Tip (3/19/13), but those included here are for more formal classes.

Here is a brief article from the New York Times giving some background into the promise and reality of MOOCs, summarizing that they are a free, low-commitment way for people to get “just in time learning” from some of the best instructors at the best colleges and universities.

SEARCH The New York Times

EDUCATION LIFE | NOTEBOOK | ONLINE EDUCATION

## Demystifying the MOOC

By JEFFREY J. SELINGO OCT. 29, 2014

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When massive open online courses first grabbed the spotlight in 2011, many saw in them promise of a revolutionary force that would disrupt traditional higher education by expanding access and reducing costs. The hope was that MOOCs — classes from elite universities, most of them free, in some cases enrolling hundreds of thousands of students each — would make it possible for anyone to acquire an education, from a villager in Turkey to a college dropout in the United States.

Following the “[hype cycle](#)” model for new technology products developed by the Gartner research group, MOOCs have fallen from their “peak of inflated expectations” in 2012 to the “trough of disillusionment.”

There are several reasons for the disillusionment. First, the average student in a MOOC is not a Turkish villager with no other access to higher education but a young white American man with a bachelor's degree and a full-time job.

Eight of every 10 students enrolled in University of Michigan and University of Pennsylvania MOOCs in 2012-13 already had a degree of some kind. The credentials gap was most pronounced in countries where the courses were supposed to have the biggest impact among the undereducated: Some 80 percent of MOOC students in Brazil, China, India, Russia and South Africa had a college degree, while in the overall population only 5 percent did. The data represents more than two dozen courses offered through Coursera, FutureLearn and edX, which are the

Perhaps the best-known source for access to MOOCs is Coursera:

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Johns Hopkins • Dec 1st
- Getting and Cleaning Data**  
Johns Hopkins • Dec 1st
- Model Thinking 模型思维 (中文版)**  
Michigan • Dec 15th
- Astrobiology and the Search for Extraterrestrial Life**  
Edinburgh • Always open
- Learning How to Learn: Powerful mental tools to help you master tough**  
UC San Diego • Jan 2nd
- Practical Machine Learning**  
Johns Hopkins • Dec 1st
- Exploratory Data Analysis**  
Johns Hopkins • Dec 1st
- Regression Models**  
Johns Hopkins • Dec 1st

Another well-known site is edX:

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# Take free online courses from the world's best universities

Search for a course

[VIEW ALL COURSES](#)

[NEW White House > edX: FREE Courses to Help Teachers & Students >>](#)

edX online courses starting soon

- MITx 6.00.1x Introduction to Computer Science and Programming Using Python**  
Starting Soon January 7, 2015
- HarveyMuddX C5002x Programming in Scratch**  
Upcoming February 2, 2015
- MITx 21W.789x Building Mobile Experiences**  
Starting Soon February 2, 2015
- UC BerkeleyX GG101x The Science of Happiness**  
Current December 1, 2014
- McGillX Body101x The Body Matters**
- WageningenX NUTR101x Introduction to Nutrition -**
- IITBombayX EE210.1x Signals and Systems, Part 1**
- UTAustinX UT.8.02x Jazz Appreciation**

For more information or other reference and collection development assistance, call the Reference & Information Desk at Adriance Memorial Library at (845) 485-3445 x 3702 or (800) 804-0092 x 3702.

Here is a sample of some new classes from Harvard University:

Some courses are ongoing, like the self-paced one here, and others are date specific. Clicking on a course of interest opens more information including duration and time commitment.

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Harvard University is devoted to excellence in teaching, learning, and research, and to developing leaders in many disciplines who make a difference globally. Harvard faculty are engaged with teaching and research to push the boundaries of human knowledge. The University has twelve degree-granting Schools in addition to the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Established in 1636, Harvard is the oldest institution of higher education in the United States. The University, which is based in Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts, has an enrollment of over 20,000 degree candidates, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Harvard has more than 360,000 alumni around the world.

Courses: Showing 1 - 15 of 56 all | current | new | past

- CS50x: Introduction to Computer Science**  
An Introduction to the Intellectual enterprises of computer science and the art of programming.  
STARTS: anytime, self-paced INSTRUCTORS: David J. Malan HarvardX learn more
- SW12.10x: China (Part 10): Greater China Today: The People's Re...**  
China's past, present, and future: through history, geography, philosophies, literature, politics, economy, art, and ecology.  
STARTS: 2 Jan 2015 INSTRUCTORS: P. Bol, W. Kirby HarvardX learn more
- 1368.3x: Saving Schools: History, Politics, and Policy in U.S. Educ...**  
Mini-Course III: Accountability and National Standards  
STARTS: 5 Jan 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Paul S. Peterson HarvardX learn more
- HLS2x: ContractsX: From Trust to Promise to Contract**  
Contracts are a part of our everyday life, arising in collaboration, trust, promise and credit. How are contracts formed? What makes a contract enforceable? What happens when one party breaks a promise?  
STARTS: 8 Jan 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Charles Fried HarvardX learn more
- 1368.4x: Saving Schools: History, Politics, and Policy in U.S. Educ...**  
Mini-Course IV: School Choice  
STARTS: 9 Feb 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Paul S. Peterson HarvardX learn more

This example course might interest a student pursuing a formal degree in education, but might also be time well spent (12 hours in total) for a School Board member or Superintendent...

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Watch the Course Intro Video

### Saving Schools: History, Politics, and Policy in U.S. Education, Mini-Course IV: School Choice

Mini-Course IV: School Choice

**About this Course**  
This is the fourth in a sequence of four mini-courses, releasing on February 9th, 2015. This mini-course focuses on alternatives to public schools in the United States.

There has been a rapid expansion of school choice in U.S. education. Charter schools now serve over five percent of the public school population, voucher programs have been introduced in many states, and digital education has captured the attention of educators across the country. What is the theoretical basis for these innovations? How effective are the early initiatives? How do parents decide what is best for their children? And how do all of these options affect the students who remain in traditional public schools?

With the help of several scholars and participants in these new ventures, we will discuss the ways in which these school choice initiatives are re-shaping U. S. education.

The mini-course contains five lectures, with most lectures divided into three videos. The mini-courses also include assigned readings, discussion forums, and assessments.

This is the fourth mini-course in a four-course sequence. Mini-Course I: History and Politics of U.S. Education can be found here. Mini-Course II: Teacher Policies can be found here. Mini-Course III: Accountability and National Standards can be found here.

**WAYS TO TAKE THIS EDX COURSE FOR FREE:**  
[Audit This Course](#)

Audit this course for free and have complete access to all the course material, activities, tests, and forums. If your work is satisfactory and you abide by the Honor Code, you'll receive a personalized Honor Code Certificate to showcase your achievement.

School:	HarvardX
Course Code:	1368.4x
Classes Start:	9 Feb 2015
Course Length:	4 weeks
Estimated effort:	3 hours/week
Prerequisites:	None.

Enroll in 1368.4x and choose your student track

Student Reviews

Write a review

0

Sign in

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Here is another finding aid for free online classes:

The screenshot shows the Mooc List search page with the following details:

- Header:** Home, Find MOOCs By, Search, About / FAQs, Contact Us
- Search Bar:** Dec 9 - IF YOU MAKE LESS THAN \$80K/YEAR, YOU MAY BE SHOCKED TO LEARN YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR A GRANT WORTH UP TO \$5730
- Filters:**
  - Age:** 18-25, 26-35, 36-45
  - Multiple Criteria:** Providers and Categories, University / Entity, Instructor, Country, Language, Type of Certificate, Tag
  - Provider:** Choose some options
  - University / Entity:** Choose some options
  - Categories:** Food and Nutrition
  - Length:** Choose some options
  - Estimated Effort:** 1-2 hours/week
  - Language:** Choose some options
  - Country:** Choose some options
  - Exam:** Choose some options
  - Certificate:** Yes, Statement of Accomplishment (Free)
  - Tags:** Agriculture
  - Start Date:** Is between, Start date, End date
  - Sort by:** Rating
  - Order:** Desc
- Results:** Online Business Courses, Certificate Programs, ITT Tech - Official Site, Medical Billing Coding, Boise State University, Mba Class
- Search by Keyword:** Google Custom Search

The screenshot shows the Mooc List Cloud of Tags and a course page for 'Introduction to Sustainability'.

**Cloud of tags:** A grid of tags including English, Internet, Economics, Physics, Healthcare, Engineering, Media, Globalization, Data, Evolution, DNA, Computing, Strategy, Literature, Writing, Genetics, Enterprise, Public Health, Markets, Entrepreneur, Behavior, Medicine, Architecture, Business, Art History, Culture, Thermodynamics, Education, Energy, Forex, Climate Change, Teacher, Matlab, Communication, Teaching, Math, War, Software, Health, Psychology, Water, Europe, Probability, Statistics, Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Food, Learning, Web, HTML, Databases, United States, Brain, Algebra, Innovation, Nutrition, Robotics, Computer Science, Data Structures, Macroeconomics, Design, Law, Skills, Finance, Algorithms, Neuroscience, Agriculture, Marketing, C++, Android, Networks, Novel, Social Sciences, Poetry, Art, Philosophy, Universe, Analysis, Entrepreneurship, Language, Java, Data Analysis, Economic, Archaeology, Human Rights, Teacher Education, China, Game, Environment, Trade, Politics, Music, Biology, Microeconomics, Security, Javascript, Science, Leadership, Network, Accounting, Social, Ethics, Earth, Computer, Python, Programming, Management, Creativity, Organization, Big Data, Chemistry, Sustainability.

**Course Page: Introduction to Sustainability (Coursera)**

- Header:** Home, Find MOOCs By
- Section:** Online Business Courses
- Provider:** necb.edu/bba
- Description:** Affordable BBA Business Degree. New England College of Business.
- Filters:** Online Courses, Sustainability, Mooc, Business Courses
- Details:** Jan 14th 2015, Coursera, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Jonathan Tomkin, Energy & Earth Sciences, USA, 8 Weeks, 8-10 hours/week, Yes, Free Exam and/or Final Project, Course Info, English, Portuguese, None, Sustainability Earth Ecosystems Population Global Change Agriculture Water, Already taken this course? Please login to rate, Average: 5 (1 vote), Go to Course
- Video:** Introduction to Sustainability with Jonathan Tomkin

Some classes are offered in multiple languages.

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