

## **Tuesday's Tip**

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

## **Massive Open Online Courses = MOOCs**

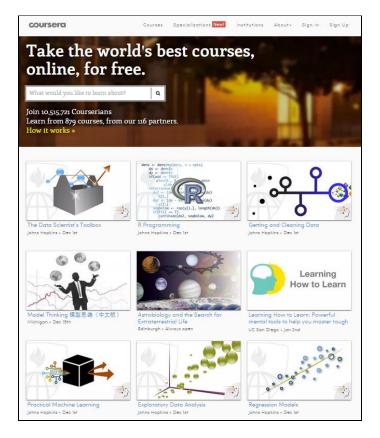
**December 9, 2014** 

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.

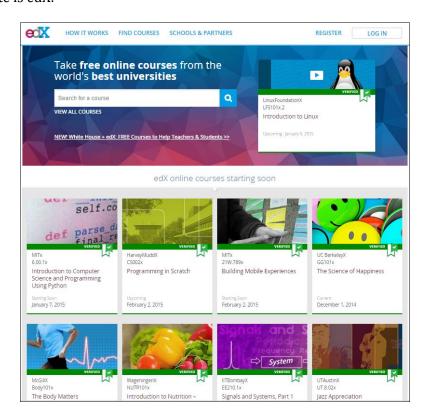
Here is a brief article from the New York Times giving some background into the promise and reality of MOOCs, summarizing that they are a free, low-commitment way for people to get "just in time learning" from some of the best instructors at the best colleges and universities.



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



## Another well-known site is edX:

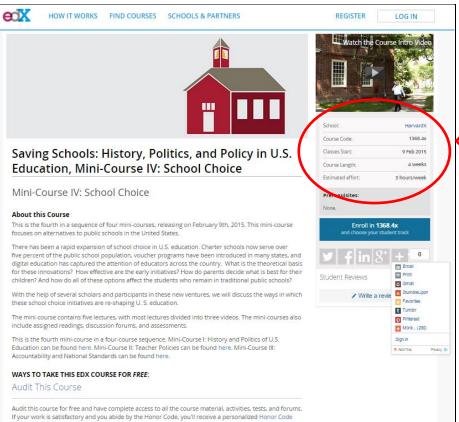


## Here is a sample of some new classes from Harvard University:

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.

HOW IT WORKS FIND COURSES SCHOOLS & PARTNERS LOG IN REGISTER Harvard X 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 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 STARTS: snytime, self-paced | dSTRUCTORS: David | Malain | HarvardX 5W12.10x: 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 HerverdX 1368.3x: Saving Schools: History, Politics, and Policy in U.S. Educ... STARTS: 5 jan 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Paul E. Peterson HervardX HLS2X: ContractsX: From Trust to Promise to Contract Contracts are a part of our everyday life, arising in collaboration, trust, promise and cred are contracts formed? What makes a contract enforceable? What happens when one par STARTS: 8 jan 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Charles Fried HarvardX 1368.4x: Saving Schools: History, Politics, and Policy in U.S. Educ... STARTS: 9 Feb 2015 INSTRUCTORS: Paul E. Pelerson HervardX

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...



Here is another finding aid for free online classes:

