MOOCs and Public Libraries: An Opportunity

FEBRUARY 26, 2014

The Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield, CT

Dorothy Pawlowski, Adult Services Librarian

Hosted by ALCTS, the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services
Why a MOOC?

The Ridgefield Library is an intellectual and cultural gathering place, adapting to the changing needs of our community in an evolving world. We commit to encouraging creativity, enrichment, and lifelong learning....
Who Takes MOOCs?

- 37% 31-50 years of age
- 39% 51+ years of age
- 6.6% are unemployed
- 14% are retired
- Half of enrollees took a MOOC for fun or out of curiosity
- 44% sought skills to help them do their jobs better
- 17% sought skills to land a new job


The Big Three

MOOCs Directory: [www.moocs.co](http://www.moocs.co)
Class Central: [www.class-central.com](http://www.class-central.com)

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The Fiction of Relationship  
Professor Arnold Weinstein, Brown University

What is the coolest thing I’ll learn in this course?
You will learn how to look at your relationship to the world in a whole new way.

https://www.coursera.org/course/relationship
Potential Problems

Permissions

Using Coursera Internally
If you are a school, university, or company, interested in being notified when Coursera launches the use of its courses for internal purposes (e.g., on-campus instruction or employee training), please complete the form available here.

Corporate
For general inquiries, including corporate and business-related inquiries, please contact us at corporate@coursera.org.

Image from Sean MacEntee

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Computer Access

- Sign-up
- Option for Viewing Lectures
- Broadband Connection

To Audit or Not to Audit?

Will I get a statement of accomplishment after completing this class? Yes. Students who successfully complete the class will receive a statement of accomplishment signed by the instructor.

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Promoting the MOOC

Getting Started – 10 Weeks, 10 Authors

1. Manon Lescaut by Abbé Prévost
2. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
3. Bartleby the Scrivener and Benito Cereno by Herman Melville
4. The Metamorphosis & The Country Doctor by Franz Kafka
5. To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf
6. Light in August by William Faulkner
7. Ficciones by Jorge Luis Borges
8. The Ice Palace by Tarjei Vesaas
9. Beloved by Toni Morrison
10. Disgrace by J. M. Coetzee

Free eBook available 1-5

All titles made available through ILL
It's About Time

“Learning Sequences”

10-12 minutes

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Remaining Details

Low Tech
The Set-up

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<th>Course Overview</th>
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<td>Schedule of Reading</td>
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<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>Resources</td>
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<td>About Us</td>
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<td>Surveys</td>
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<td>Join a Meetup</td>
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<td>Help Articles</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Course Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut (Abbé Prévost)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 1 (12:14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 2 (11:41)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 3 (12:07)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 4 (12:50)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 5 (12:44)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 6 (10:44)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 7 (12:59)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 8 (13:08)</td>
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<td>Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Part 9 (07:19)</td>
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<td>(Optional) Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Class Discussion (47:43)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Optional) Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Class Discussion Clip A (02:39)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Optional) Week 2: Manon Lescaut, Class Discussion Clip B (02:27)</td>
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</table>
A Tale of Ten Weeks

Insights

Facilitators

Discussions

Food

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Who Were the Participants

30s  40s  50s  60s

70s  80s
### The Survey

**The Fiction of Relationship MOOC**

1. What was your level of participation in the MOOC?
   - a. Attended most sessions at the library and did most of the reading
   - b. Attended most sessions at the library, but did only some of the reading
   - c. Started attending sessions at the library, but decided to continue watching lectures online at home
   - d. Decided not to finish the course

   If you attended most of the sessions at the library skip to Question 3

2. If you decided not to finish the course, what was your reason:
   - a. The time commitment was more than I expected
   - b. The content of the course was not what I expected
   - c. I did not like the style of the lecturer
   - d. Other,________________________

3. Did attending the sessions at the library enrich your experience:
   - a. Yes
     - If so, please share how your experience was enhanced________________________
   - b. Not really

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### Level of MOOC Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Participation</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended most sessions, and did most of the reading</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended most sessions, did some of the reading</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Started attending at library, finished at home</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decided not to finish the course</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did Attending Sessions at the Library Enrich Your Experience?

- Yes: 15
- Not Really: 1
- Other: 2

Would You Take Another MOOC at the Library?

- Would consider depending on the topic: 18
- Would only consider if the format of the sessions was modified: 0
- Would not be interested in participating: 0
What Subject Areas Would Be of Interest to You for Another MOOC?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Interest</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments

The Good
- Other participants enriched my understanding
- A chance to share opinions
- Discussion helped me improve analysis of work
- Would not have watched lectures on my own
- Well worth it
- It was pretty perfect

How to improve
- Shorten the sessions
- 10 weeks was a long haul
- More time in between sessions for reading
But saying someone "failed to complete" a free open online class is like saying someone "failed to complete" The New Yorker in the week she received it. Most don't sign up for the class or the magazine for purposes of "completion."

Students use MOOCs differently than they use the classroom, and we should pay attention to that rather than think the online world fails to replicate a "really real" classroom.

Imagine the Possibilities

Meeting a community’s needs for lifelong learning for all ages

Partnering with local schools

Computer and programming skills

Libraries in different communities holding a joint meet-up

Develop a cMOOC

Hybrid of individual and group learning

Learning Hubs

Going Forward

**BostonX**

“The City of Boston has teamed with edX to create BostonX. It will offer free online college courses throughout the city. And it will make MOOCs (massive open online courses) available at community colleges and libraries throughout the city.”

http://opensource.com/education/13/8/bostonx

**Coursera Learning Hubs**
Resources


Questions or Contact

Dorothy Pawlowski
Ridgefield Library
Ridgefield, CT

dlpawl@ridgefieldlibrary.org
or
libraria06@gmail.com