Tech Bytes@ Lehman

Fall 2013

A massive open online course (MOOC) is...

a free, open-access, large scaled web-based course with the potential to change the way we think of distance learning.

Is it 'participatory education'?
Or just another step in the direction of commercializing education?

Join the Conversation

Our Holiday Coffee Hour November 20 3-4:30

Topic: MOOCs: *Evolution or Revolution?*
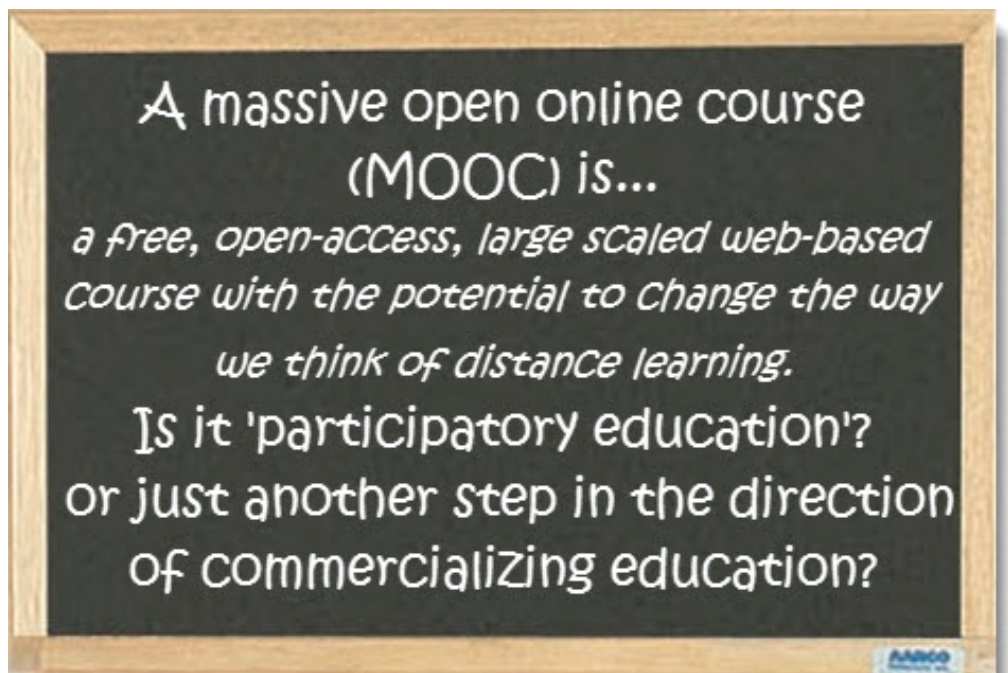
While many educators don't even recognize the term MOOC, technology administrators connected to the development of online education have recognized the veritable outburst of attention being paid to the conception and development of massive open online courses, (MOOCs) and are already feeling the pressure to cave-in and develop these expensive-to-produce resource heavy courses that attract thousands. After all, there's the free access to world-class instruction and institutions, with economy of scale a great temptation and the potential to tap into a previously uncultivated audience of willing participants, and, potential profits from this same audience. But wait, what profits? What audience, when so many of the thousands who register are there to lurk or don't even complete? While to-now the pressure has remained mainly political, it's not exclusively so and some administrations at some very visible institutions are forging ahead without evidence of their value-add. In fact, the editors of the journal Inside Higher Ed recently released a survey of 2,251 faculty members that reveals the attitudes of faculty on technology, and 62% of faculty 'strongly agree' that institutions should start MOOCs, (with prior faculty approval) even if there's no proof of MOOCs' effectiveness or profitability. Crushingly, just 7% of the same faculty members strongly agree that online courses can achieve student learning outcomes that are at least equivalent to those of in-person courses* even though 27% of educational technology administrators are more likely to strongly agree with the statement. Most faculty members (85%) say the quality of online courses is lower than those delivered in person with respect to class time student interaction. Where do we stand at Lehman? Join the conversation at our November coffee hour. RSVP now and we'll discuss, enjoy casual conversation, great coffee and fresh baked pie!

Personal appointments and lectures to groups at your convenience:
- Flip my class!
- Hybrid Teaching- why is it different? How do I start?
- Group work- how to get students to prepare for it and love it, guaranteed!
- iClickers - motivate students to be prepared for class discussions
- VoiceThread http://voicethread.com is now in Blackboard for this interactive message and discussion board!
- iTunesU and how to use long and short form video on Bb
- Podcast
- Camtasia Lecture capture
- Audacity Audio lecture capture (free)
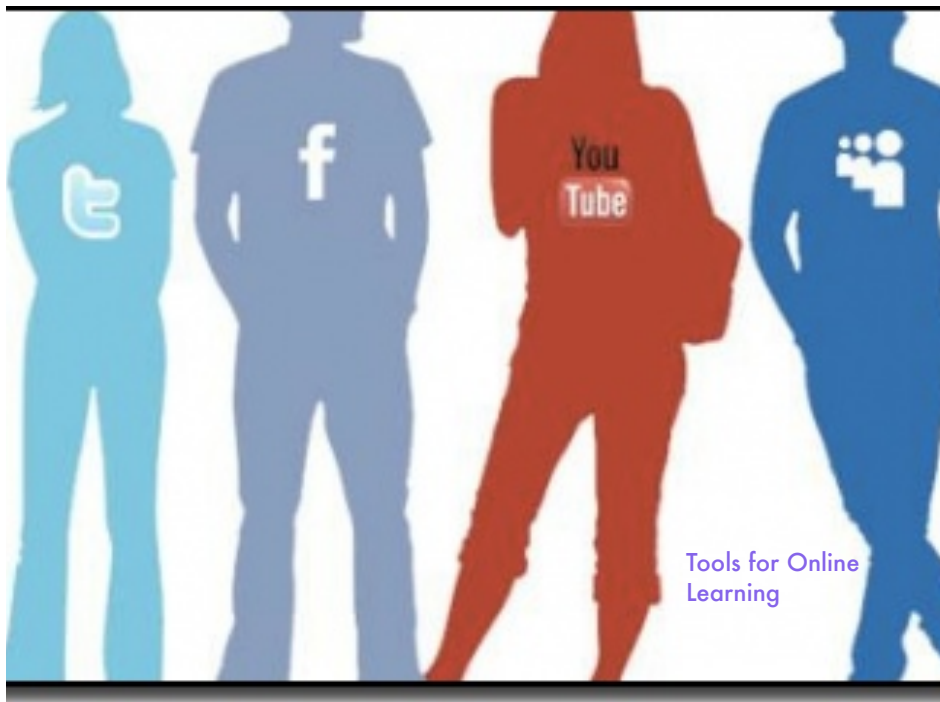- Wikispaces wikis, blogging
- Blackboard training

Register NOW for the 2013 CUNY IT CONFERENCE- December 5 & 6 @ John Jay College. This year's theme is "IT in CUNY: Disruptions and Developments".

Join hundreds of your CUNY colleagues with an interest in technology in education and be sure and attend the Lehman faculty seminar @9:30 on the 6th!

Office of Online Education, Lehman College, City of New York

Tools for Online Learning

Tools for Online Learning

Online tools like the ones featured in this newsletter are educationally relevant when your students can use them to do something tangibly to help with all the resources, links and photos needed to develop a re-search project or presentation.

VoiceThread is now inside Blackboard 9.1 at Lehman!
As more instructors at Lehman have found a myriad of uses for VoiceThread, it's going to be good news to know that you can start your own VT community right inside your Blackboard course with just a URL link at no additional cost to you or your students!

Here's how to access VoiceThread:
In Blackboard, open your 'Assignments' folder. Select 'Build content', and choose 'URL'. For the 'name' type 'VoiceThread Link'. for URL, type in:
https://lehman.voicethread.com/lti/
(this link needs the final 'slash' at the end and is ONLY accessible from within Bb.) Check the box that says 'this is a link to a tool provider'. Be sure to select 'Options' in #4 'open in new window'.You and your class are automatically registered via Black-board's sign-in- no other sign in will be required.

For those who haven't seen this powerful group discussion tool in action, VoiceThread is a web-based (cloud) application that lets you place all kinds of media like documents, images, videos, audio files and PowerPoint presentations at the center of an asynchronous group conversation. A VoiceThread allows people to make comments using their computer's microphone, webcam and/or any mix of text, even a telephone, or uploaded audio file. VoiceThread now runs inside your Blackboard 9.1 course, so there is no software to download, install, or update.

Visit my office, call or email me for a personal training session and be up and running with your own VoiceThreads in less than a half hour. You and your students can make unlimited VT's to present - some faculty even use it as their class 'discussion board'! Come in and activate your course's copy.
alyson.vogel@lehman.cuny.edu

CUNY's NEW
hybrid resource blog
CUNY.is/hybrid

Want to develop an online or hybrid class and don't know where to start? The CUNY Hybrid Initiative blog is a helpful open resource for professors planning to create and teach hybrid courses, as well as to refine their practice:
hybrid.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
The tools and information presented in this site include the work of colleges that participated in the City University of New York (CUNY) Hybrid Initiative which offered support to increase hybrid courses at these campuses with the overall goals of improving learning outcomes and conserving precious classroom space.

Throughout this site you will find strategies, models and resources that can help you plan for and design an effective hybrid course or even program. Whether you are a professor beginning on your path to online teaching, an instructional designer adding to your toolbox, or an administrator planning a program, this site can provide you with a wealth of ideas. A work in progress, the Hybrid Initiative site encourages contributions from members inside and outside of CUNY in the spirit of building and refining effective practices.
The shortened URL is easy to remember:
CUNY.is/hybrid - check it out!!

MOOCs- want to learn more?

Fall-Winter 2013-14 Calendar

The Office of Online Education has some inviting activities set for this winter and spring.

Email me or come and inquire about our workshops and monetary stipends for converting your current course to a hybrid (blended) course. call 347.577.4024

All activities and workshops located in Carman Hall 249 unless otherwise noted. Call for details!

January

8-9   10-1:00

Our office is sponsoring 2 days of workshops to introduce various aspects of social media solutions for creating online communities around classrooms and research.

Sign up information TBD Learn about some of the newest forms of online collaboration supported here at Lehman.

Free coffee & freshly baked breads and desserts! Carman 249

Applications for our hybrid initiative workshop series being accepted NOW Starting late January, spend an afternoon with us and find out how to integrate the tools on these pages with your current coursework

January

21-22 1-4 p

Our office is sponsoring a Tech Coffee break

Come and learn about some of the newest forms of online collaboration tools supported here at Lehman including wikis, blogging and the tools mentioned here in our newsletter.

Free coffee, fruit and freshly baked scones! Carman 249 from 1 - 4 Information to register TBD

23-24

Come spend hands--on time learning to integrate Camtasia into your lectures and PowerPoints-. For appointments email me.

Coming in May

2   9:45-4

Save the date!
Spend the day at our Bronx EdTech Conference

Join us Friday May 2, 2014 at the Bronx Community College campus. for our free conference This year's demonstrations will feature Lehman faculty among three Bronx CUNY colleges showcasing their exemplary efforts to integrate and infuse technology with their hybrid, fully online & traditional course objectives.

Conference is being held offsite. Click here to visit and see last year's event. Breakfast, Lunch and Raffle for those present.

Tools for Online Learning

BlackBoard Collaborate

Located within our current version of Bb 9.1, Collaborate offers faculty and students the opportunity to collaborate with one another simultaneously and virtually. Faculty can conduct their courses through web conferencing features that incorporate instant messaging (chat), voice, white board for demonstration, document uploading and storage, live web tours and group spaces into your distance learning course to provide a real time learning experience.

It's now possible for online or hybrid course instructors to take advantage of these virtual features by creating a simple link inside Bb: Choose a content area to add the link, click 'Add Interactive Tool' from the menu, then select Bb Collaborate. Click 'Create Session.' Give the session a title, then choose a start date and time. Be sure to offer early session entry' to allow your students to get settled. Don't forget to let them know the date and time! Then set the recording time to manual or auto. Practice using the tools or give us a call!

Wikispaces: Create Your Own Class Wiki in Minutes

Lehman has purchased the rights to Wikispaces once again this year so now you can incorporate this flexible research and collaboration tool- even use it as a vibrant, visual alternative to BlackBoard's discussion. Since wikis are such an easy way to collect text, links, files, and all kinds of media, your students can post, publish, collaborate, comment to one another and share easily. You have unlimited pages to allow you and your students to share text, images, and files.

This is a simple-to-learn tool with no advertisement- entries can be made public or private as you choose.

Register for your account at www.lehmancollegecuny.wikispaces.net and stop by to see how quickly your class can be starting their own collaborative research projects!

wikispaces
wikis for everyone

Lehman Coffee Break:

TOPIC: MOOCs: Evolution or Revolution!

Wed November 20 3PM

LEHMAN COLLEGE

To participate in any of the events on this page visit and register here:

www.lehman.cuny.edu/online-education/faculty/workshops.php
or email
alyson.vogel@lehman.cuny.edu