



Massive Open Online Courses

UW-Madison MOOCs Examine Humanity and the Changing Environment

What is a MOOC?

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a large online learning experience. People from all over the world can go on the Internet and watch educational videos, participate in discussion forums, read articles, and often take quizzes or complete educational activities. They can participate in a MOOC no matter where they are located, as long as they have a wireless connection. UW-Madison MOOCs are free, typically last four weeks, and anyone can sign up.

Think of MOOCs as being like a big online museum. People can go in and find out about the subjects that interest them by looking at a number of artifacts. Sometimes visitors will go through the whole museum, while others come just to see one room, or even one statue. Similarly, in a MOOC, people go online to learn more about the topics that interest them. The videos, discussion forums and learning activities within a MOOC are a little bit like the artifacts in a museum.

Why does UW-Madison offer MOOCs to the public for free?

For more than 100 years, UW-Madison has been committed to something called the Wisconsin Idea—the concept that the university should improve people’s lives beyond the classroom and should provide services to families, businesses and communities across Wisconsin. UW-Madison offers MOOCs because we want citizens to have access to a UW learning experience, even if they cannot be here in Madison. Offering MOOCs is just one way we can reach out to people and share our university’s resources.

Can I get college credit for taking a UW-Madison MOOC?

At UW-Madison, we don’t currently offer college credit for taking a MOOC.

How do I sign up for a MOOC?

To sign up for a UW-Madison MOOC or to learn more, go to www.moocs.wisc.edu and click on the icon for the MOOC that interests you. When you enroll you will be taken to our Coursera page, where you can create an account and sign up for free.

How can I get involved or support learning in my community?

Encourage your friends, colleagues or networks to participate in the MOOCs. And be sure to check out the other exciting learning opportunities and events we are posting on www.moocs.wisc.edu. If you have ideas about how UW can better connect with your community on topics of interest to you, please fill out the “Contact Us” form and we will be in touch with you!

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