

May 2013 Newsletter

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Mechanics ReView MOOC: Learning about digital learning through data

On June 1st, a group of professors and researchers from MIT's [RELATE Lab](#) will launch an edX course called [Mechanics ReView](#). What makes this course unique is that, while many MOOC developers discuss the potential for using student data to improve courses, Mechanics ReView has already crunched five years' worth of data to optimize the learning experience. The thousands of students who took prior online versions of the course have allowed the RELATE team to refine the focus and phrasing of every question and explanation in the course. It's a great illustration of how scientific method can improve the way science is taught.

The course was first taught at MIT in 2009 to help MIT freshman who were having trouble with [8.01 Physics I: Classical Mechanics](#). Unlike traditional lecture courses, Mechanics ReView focused on problem solving. It taught students a style of strategic thinking that made it easier to solve mechanical engineering problems. They learned how to frame the interactions between objects and decide what systems and models govern them.

> [Read the complete article](#)

New Courses

- [15.401 Finance Theory I](#)
- [CMS.407 Media and Methods: Sound](#)

Updated Courses

- [11.166 Law, Social Movements, and Public Policy: Comparative and International Experience](#)
- [15.220 Global Strategy and Organization](#)
- [18.100C Real Analysis](#)
- [21F.027 Asia in the Modern World: Images & Representations](#)
- [22.51 Quantum Theory of Radiation Interactions](#)

> [Find courses that interest you](#)



This Spring we've been given a special challenge by our [OCW Gift Challenge Circle](#) -

to encourage 700 OCW users to donate to OCW within 36 days of our Spring campaign.

If we achieve this goal, we'll receive a generous gift of \$25,000.

We're thrilled and thankful that 325 people have donated to the campaign!

They've made it possible for OCW to receive \$7,5000 which will help us publish more courses, update others, and distribute them widely online.

> [Subscribe to the RSS](#)

Highlights for High School

Unbelievably, we are nearing the end of the school year and soon teachers and students will begin their summer vacations. But just because school is out, doesn't mean you have to stop learning. Visit Highlights for High School for some fun videos and courses. Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

ChemLab Boot Camp: An engaging reality show about MIT students learning their way around a chemistry lab.

Chemistry Behind the Magic: Chemical Demonstrations for the Classroom: Watch two scientists create things that steam, fizzle, and glow during these exciting chemistry demonstrations!

Check out courses developed at MIT specifically for high school students! Topics include extraterrestrial life, guitar building, and audio and speaker electronics, among many others.

New MITx Courses



Fall 2013 MITx courses are now open for registration on the edX site. Courses this fall include:

New this fall

3.086x Innovation and Commercialization

4.605x A Global History of Architecture: Part 1

Previously offered

2.01x Elements of Structure

8.01x Classical Mechanics

> Enroll now at: edx.org

Views from Supporters

"When I was a child, I grew up in a household with 14 sisters and brothers.

With 22 days left in the campaign and 375 people to become donors, we need your help!

If you can afford to support OCW, then please donate today.

Each person counts in this participation campaign and any donation in any size makes a difference.

Your gift demonstrates your commitment to knowledge as a public good and shows our sponsors and funders how much our visitors value the site.

If you've already donated, then thank you for helping us get closer to reaching our goal!

OCW is grateful for the support of:





My mother barely had a third grade education.

And what I remember her telling us was that education was the way out.

She also said that an education was the only thing they could not take from you.

That advice stayed with me, and I consider education a lifelong journey. There is always something to learn, and as such, a contribution to be made.

A mentor once told me that if you know how to read, you can do anything.

I want to help others find a way through education. The fact that this is open to anyone is awesome. Learning itself is a gift that keeps on giving. Thank you. "

- Maria, Independent Learner, USA

[> Read more](#)

Tell us what you think of OCW at ocw-feedback@mit.edu.



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