# **MOOCS - Massive Open Online Courses**

MOOCs are a development of distance learning – from correspondence study where information was disseminated via post, radio and television – Who remembers the Saturday morning sessions where we were introduced to Science through the likes of Professor Julius Sumner Miller? With the development of academic institutions such as the Open University in the United Kingdom in 1969 and computers and multimedia the opportunity to learn anywhere/anytime greatly expanded.

MOOCs are online courses that are offered by many academic institutions (Universities, Colleges, Business Schools, Polytechnics, etc.) from around the world. (Tell everyone you have studied at Yale, Princeton, Stanford or Melbourne University).

They can be found in all areas of interest – the number and variety increasing each year.

**They vary in length** from a couple of weeks through to several months and may be self-paced or run at set times throughout the year.

**Starting a course** requires signing up with name, email and creating a password. An email will be sent which requires clicking on a link to confirm the registration.

The next step is to select a course and click on the link to start it.

The organization will keep a record of courses started/completed.

## Completing a course involves:

- Use of short video 'lectures'
- Group chats
- Possibly further reading lists
- Assignments/Practical activities
- Quizzes/Tests generally, a short test covering the information at the end of the module just covered and then a final one covering the complete course.

At the end of the study a certificate may be available. Some of these are purely a statement of having completed the course. In some, a recognised certificate is available – this usually requires a payment.

#### Using it with U3A classes:

- Have all enrol in the course and have group discussions each week about issues involved.
- Course Leader enrol and use with whole group using data projector (for those without computer [confidence])
- Use it to gain further background knowledge for presentations.
- Use the courses to allow people to do further study themselves on the topic being covered.

### **Sites for MOOCs:**

#### Coursera:

https://www.coursera.org/courses? courseType=v2.ondemand

Coursera has their offering of courses organised under the categories listed below

Some courses are listed as 'Go at your own pace'. The shortest courses run for 4 weeks

Eligible For Verified Certificates 264 Specialization 105 All Categories Arts 53 Biology & Life Sciences 137 Business & Management 171 Chemistry 33 Computer Science: Artificial 45 Intelligence Computer Science: 77 Software Engineering Computer Science: Systems 41 & Security Computer Science: Theory 66 Economics & Finance 138 Education 129 Energy & Earth Sciences 49 Engineering 91 Food and Nutrition 29 Health & Society 156 Humanities 188 Information, Tech & Design 143 Law 44 Mathematics 83 Medicine 120 Music, Film, and Audio 51 Physical & Earth Sciences 54 Physics 51 Social Sciences 177 Statistics and Data Analysis 85 Teacher Professional 92 EdX: https://www.edx.org/

EdX has their offering of courses organised under the categories listed below

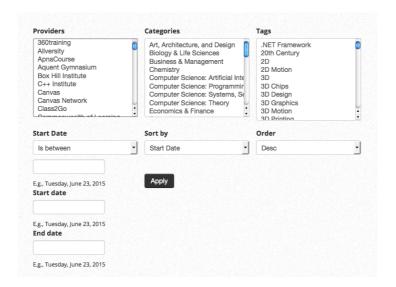
Some courses are run by High Schools

Architecture       7         Art & Culture       37         Biology & Life Sciences       58         Business & Management       63         Chemistry       24         Communication       24         Computer Science       96         Design       3         Economics & Finance       38         Education       21         Electronics       25         Energy & Earth Sciences       12         Engineering       94         Environmental Studies       32         Ethics       10         Food & Nutrition       11         Health & Safety       36         History       57
Biology & Life Sciences       58         Business & Management       63         Chemistry       24         Communication       24         Computer Science       96         Design       3         Economics & Finance       38         Education       21         Electronics       25         Energy & Earth Sciences       12         Engineering       94         Environmental Studies       32         Ethics       10         Food & Nutrition       11         Health & Safety       36         History       57
Business & Management         63           Chemistry         24           Communication         24           Computer Science         96           Design         3           Economics & Finance         38           Education         21           Electronics         25           Energy & Earth Sciences         12           Engineering         94           Environmental Studies         32           Ethics         10           Food & Nutrition         11           Health & Safety         36           History         57
Chemistry         24           Communication         24           Computer Science         96           Design         3           Economics & Finance         38           Education         21           Electronics         25           Energy & Earth Sciences         12           Engineering         94           Environmental Studies         32           Ethics         10           Food & Nutrition         11           Health & Safety         36           History         57
Communication         24           Computer Science         96           Design         3           Economics & Finance         38           Education         21           Electronics         25           Energy & Earth Sciences         12           Engineering         94           Environmental Studies         32           Ethics         10           Food & Nutrition         11           Health & Safety         36           History         57
Computer Science         96           Design         3           Economics & Finance         38           Education         21           Electronics         25           Energy & Earth Sciences         12           Engineering         94           Environmental Studies         32           Ethics         10           Food & Nutrition         11           Health & Safety         36           History         57
Design       3         Economics & Finance       38         Education       21         Electronics       25         Energy & Earth Sciences       12         Engineering       94         Environmental Studies       32         Ethics       10         Food & Nutrition       11         Health & Safety       36         History       57
Economics & Finance       38         Education       21         Electronics       25         Energy & Earth Sciences       12         Engineering       94         Environmental Studies       32         Ethics       10         Food & Nutrition       11         Health & Safety       36         History       57
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Engineering       94         Environmental Studies       32         Ethics       10         Food & Nutrition       11         Health & Safety       36         History       57
Environmental Studies 32 Ethics 10 Food & Nutrition 11 Health & Safety 36 History 57
Ethics 10 Food & Nutrition 11 Health & Safety 36 History 57
Food & Nutrition 11 Health & Safety 36 History 57
Health & Safety 36 History 57
History 57
Humanities 99
<b>Law</b> 19
Literature 41
Math 48
Medicine 29
Music 7
Philosophy & Ethics 27
Physics 54
Science 86
Social Sciences 84
Statistics & Data Analysis 49

Development

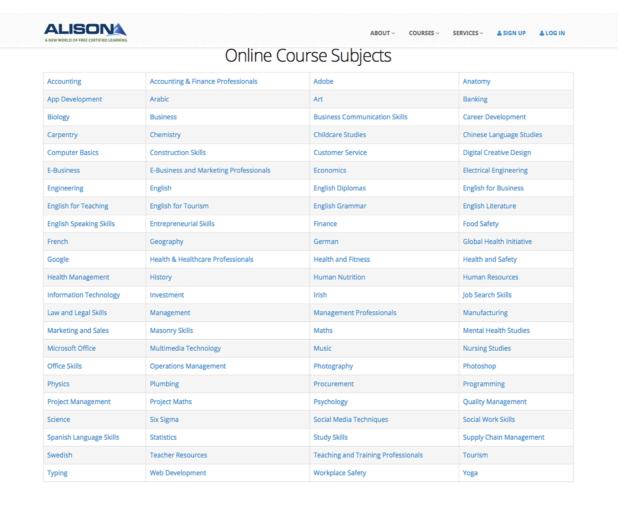
# MOOC List: https://www.mooc-list.com/

MOOC List has a huge range of courses with a variety of sorting categories to help choose a course – including sorting by date the course begins



Alison: https://alison.com/course/

Large range of different and interesting courses



Open Culture: http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses

1100 courses offered from Universities around the world plus a huge range of links to free (public domain) resources/ courses/ multimedia (audio books, films, ebooks, music and more)

Open Education Database: http://oedb.org/open/

American-based offering a huge number of courses.

Open University: http://www.open.edu/openlearn/about-openlearn/try

Over 800 courses ranging in length from a couple of hours to several months.

Open to Study: <a href="https://www.open2study.com/courses">https://www.open2study.com/courses</a>

Free courses offered by Australian Universities.

<u>LearnFree:</u> <a href="http://freecourses.iimra.com/">http://freecourses.iimra.com/</a>

A starting place to find a number of free courses.

Of course, a simple place to begin is going into a search engine and typing in:

"free...(pick a topic)...MOOC" or "free online course about...(topic)"

To find more information about the development of MOOCs visit YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=MOOC

There are other websites covering areas of study that may also come in handy for both instructors and learners:

<u>Microsoft</u> provides a Digital Literacy Site with topics ranging from basic computer introduction, use of cloud, Internet security and using Microsoft Office.

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/digitalliteracy/default.aspx

<u>Broadband For Seniors</u> is an Australian website that provides lessons in basic computer/internet.

http://bfseniors.com.au/

#### **Examples used in talk:**

Chinese Language and Culture: <a href="https://www.open2study.com/courses/chinese-language-culture">https://www.open2study.com/courses/chinese-language-culture</a>

History of Rock Part 1: <a href="https://www.coursera.org/learn/history-of-rock">https://www.coursera.org/learn/history-of-rock</a>