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Making the most of MOOCs: An International Distance Learning perspective

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Institutional Context: Empire State College

- ▶ A SUNY solution for working professionals
- ▶ Over 18,000 students
- ▶ Undergraduate and graduate, incl. MBA
- ▶ 34 locations around New York State
- ▶ Modalities: fully online, local study groups, independent studies
- ▶ Offshore international programs.

Canada

Pennsylvania

New York City

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Institutional Context: Center for Distance Learning

- ▶ 8,000 undergraduate students; 50 full time and 500 part time instructors; small classes (up to 20)

- ▶ Working adults (av. 34 years), individualized degree programs, mentoring approach, PLA

- ▶ Asynchronous, writing intensive studies

- ▶ SLN, "ANGEL", now Moodlerooms + Mahara

- ▶ OPEN SUNY (launching January 2014)

- ▶ Located in Saratoga Springs, NY

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Problem Identification: IDL

▶ International Distance Learning (since early 1990s)

  ▶ Support for resident offshore programs (Cyprus, Greece)

  ▶ Non-matriculated international students (50 countries)

▶ A series of double degree, IDL projects in Russia

  ▶ Omsk State University (1998-2003), Tomsk State University of Radioelectronics (2007 – now), Moscow's Presidential Academy (2012 – now)

▶ A low retention rate (1 in 5); looking for solutions

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Problem Identification: Barriers to IDL

- ▶ Organizational (distance, textbook delivery, costs)
- ▶ Technology and computer-mediated learning
- ▶ Language, academic systems, culture, contexts
- ▶ Classroom structure, expected behaviors
- ▶ Academic writing, communications skills
- ▶ Prerequisite subject matter knowledge and skills
- ▶ ESC-specific requirements (degree planning)
- ▶ Self-regulation and motivation.

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Looking for solutions: IeLS

▶ The Three B Framework: Bridging, Bilingual, Blended

▶ *International eLearning Skills* (an online study, since 2007)

- ▸ Developed for IDL projects with Russian universities
- ▸ Emphasis on transition from teacher-centered to student-centered, self-regulated learning
- ▸ Bilingual approach (with blended and video components)

▶ Limitations:

- ▸ Limited to course participants (registration, tuition fees, access)
- ▸ A group study (requires an active project with a partner university)
- ▸ Bilingual (vs. English only vs. multilingual).

Looking for solutions: SDL in USSVE

▶ A massive, open, online course for IDL (iMOOC)

- ▶ For all partner universities abroad - free
- ▶ For anyone interested in obtaining skills to navigate MOOCs in the US

▶ *Introduction to Self-Directed Learning in US-Style Virtual Environments* (to be launched on March 24, 2014)

- ▶ Mirrors IeLS, students can transfer to IeLS to get college credit (fee based)
- ▶ English; bilingual groups welcome (several languages)

▶ Limitations:

- ▶ Closer to traditional MOOCs (one-to-all pedagogy, not good for SDL)
- ▶ A live lab is required for students to practice SDL.

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Looking for Solutions: a Connectivist MOOC?

▶ Connectivist educational philosophy

▶ Inspired by George Siemens and Stephen Downes (CCK08)

▶ 3 MOOCs launched at CDL in 2012-13

  ▸ VizMath (Yeager & Hurley-Dasgupta)

  ▸ CMC11 Creativity and Multicultural Communication (Yeager & Hurley-Dasgupta)

  ▸ Metaliteracy (Mackey, Jacobson & Yeager)

"The starting point of **connectivism** is the individual. Personal knowledge is comprised of a **network**, which feeds into organizations and institutions, which in turn feed back into the network, and then continue to provide learning to individual. This **cycle of knowledge development** (personal to network to organization) allows learners to remain current in their field through the connections they have formed."

George Siemens
Connectivism:
A Learning Theory for the Digital Age

http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/connectivism.htm

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The First MOOC in the SUNY System

Creativity & Multicultural Communication

Announcements   Home: CMC 11   Course facilitators   About This Course   Contents   Addendum for continuing and new participants ...   RSS

This Course
- Home: CMC 11
- About This Course
- How it works
- The Big Picture
- Course Outline
- Course facilitators
- Contact us
- Your privacy

Participating
- Read NewPosts
- NewPosts Archives
- Add a New Feed
- View List of Feeds
- Read Discussions
- Browse Blog Posts
- Listen to Recordings

Week 4: Transliteracy and Metaliteracy: Emerging Literacy Frameworks for Social Media

Tom Mackey and **Trudi E. Jacobson**

Overview

see recording

Reading, Viewing and Listening Materials

Open, Online and Mobile

Introducing Transliteracy

Transliteracy: Crossing Divides

Reframing Information Literacy as Metaliteracy

Dr. Betty Hurley Dasgupta and Carol Yeager
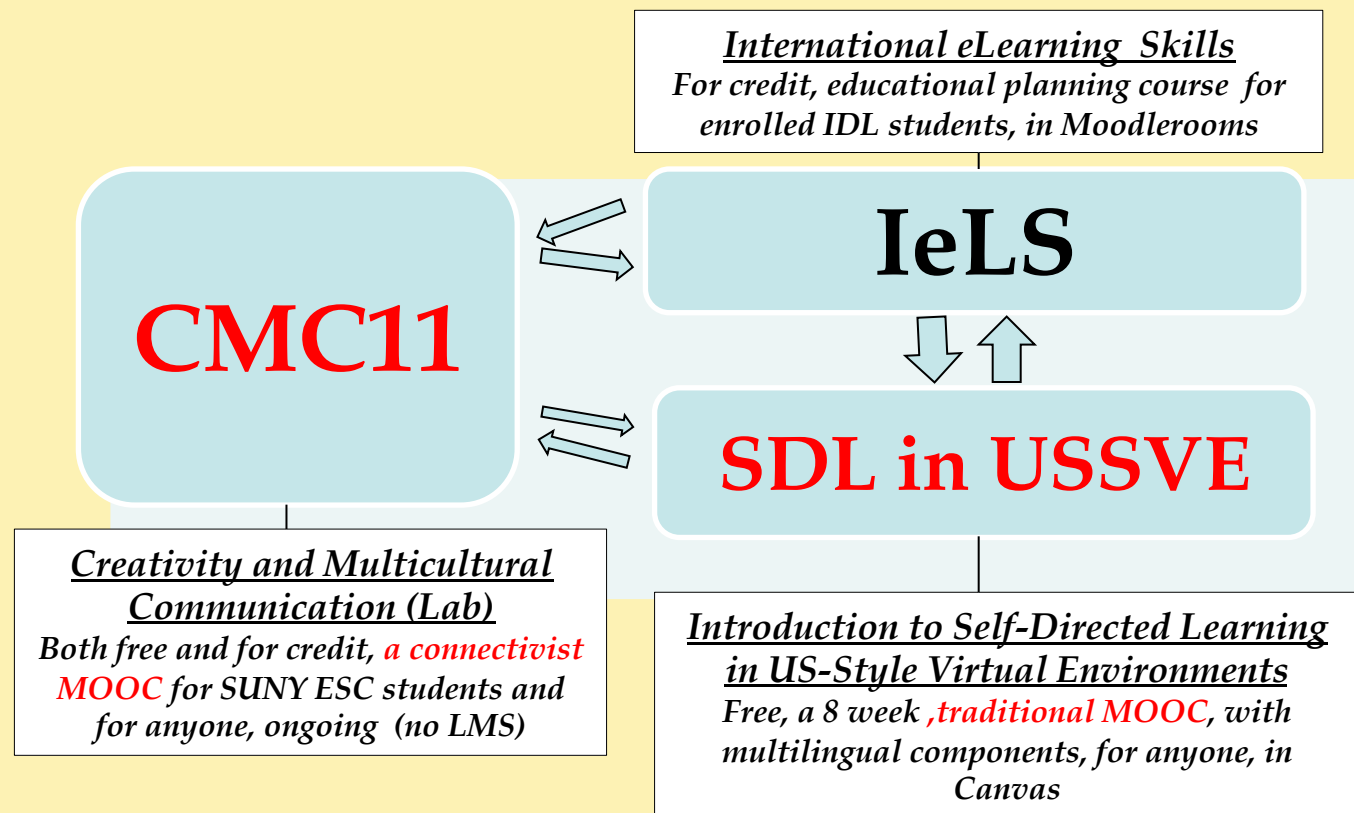
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Dr. Betty Hurley Dasgupta and Carol Yeager

Creativity and Multicultural Communication (CMC11)

- 559 registered participants

- 14 Registered for credit

- 13 undergraduates and 1 grad student completed

- 119 registered participant blogs

- 996 blog posts.

- 136 tweets

- 36   discussions

- Facebook group started by participants still active

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The proposed alignment of MOOCs

International eLearning Skills
For credit, educational planning course for
enrolled IDL students, in Moodlerooms

CMC11

IeLS

SDL in USSVE

**Creativity and Multicultural
Communication (Lab)**
Both free and for credit, *a connectivist
MOOC* for SUNY ESC students and
for anyone, ongoing (no LMS)

**Introduction to Self-Directed Learning
in US-Style Virtual Environments**
Free, a 8 week *,traditional MOOC*, with
multilingual components, for anyone, in
Canvas

Highlights

▶ The main point of entry for students: SDL in USSVE

- ▸ Work with partners to get students interested in developing competencies and skills to benefit from US-style MOOCs
- ▸ Attract students interested in mastering US-style, computer-mediated communications
- ▸ As a scaffolding tool, create bilingual communities of practice led by foreign-born faculties and student peers
- ▸ Based on OER, delivered via Canvas Network

▶ Get knowledge, build skills, then use CMC11 as a lab

▶ Use IeLS to get college level credits in US.

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Next steps

- ▶ CMC11 is already operational and ongoing
- ▶ IeLS is being redesigned for March 2014
- ▶ SDL in USSVE is scheduled for March 2014
- ▶ Bilingual groups: Hindi, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish
- ▶ For programs abroad joined by partner universities
- ▶ Survey instrument
- ▶ Possible partnership with OPEN SUNY.

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Collaborators are welcome!