Epidemics
Join us on Coursera on Sep 28 2017

Learn about the origin, spread and control of epidemics with world-renowned experts from The University of Hong Kong, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

“"If history is our guide, we can assume that the battle between the intellect and will of the human species and the extraordinary adaptability of microbes will be never-ending.”

Epidemics (MOOC) features a series of panel discussions with world-leading scientists on recent hot topics including Ebola, Zika, and anti-vaccination.

Materials in Oral Health
Join us on Coursera on Oct 24 2017

Implant Dentistry
Join us on Coursera on Nov 28 2017

The role to inspire
HKU Dentistry (ranked No.1 in the world in 2016 & 2017) developed and launched two MOOCs Implant Dentistry and Materials in Oral Health with HKU TELI in 2016-2017. The MOOCs have reached 15,000+ enrolled global learners to date. Endeavored to provide a top-notch dental education programme both on-campus and off-campus, the dentistry faculty and 50+ international dentistry experts shared professional knowledge, evidence-based research and best practices with learners in dental education communities, as well as, multiple-levels of dental and medical professionals and related industries.

University Teaching
Teaching aspirations
For educators looking for new options in professional development contents, the University Teaching MOOC launched by the Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL) will surely be a useful reference to university teaching at all levels. Learners will gain insights from local and guest instructors, including teaching award winners and first time teachers, learning from their experience and also hearing from students about what they expect from a university education today.

Explore University Teaching with Experts
Join us on Coursera on Nov 7 2017
The Catalytic Role of e-Learning

Education aspiration for the masses

Dinosaur Ecosystems MOOC celebrated a roaring first session of the course, reaching close to 10,000 learners and dinosaur enthusiasts from over 120 countries round the globe. The learners are of a diverse age range, with a median age of 27, among the group are young learners from age 5 to elderly learners age 80+. The MOOC was developed by Dr. Michael Pittman of HKU Department of Earth Sciences together with Professor Xu Xing of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and the TELI team.

Technology has made it possible

With state-of-the-art technology, videos and animations, Dr. Pittman and his crew, together with the TELI team reconstructed a dinosaur world vividly in front of the eyes of the learners. The learners are brought to the hot and dusty Gobi Desert of Erlian, China to dig up early fossils and ancient rocks from close to 80 million years ago. From tracing almost 100 years of scientific evidence and research, we learnt about what physical environment these ancient animals once lived in, what food they ate and how they interacted with each other. In the course of the journey, Dr. Pittman also shared his exciting and cutting-edge research findings in uncovering anatomical information of dinosaur fossils with laser-stimulated fluorescence (LSF) technique.

The real aspiration – paleontology for the world

The success of the MOOC is not limited to sharing of knowledge and excitement in research with a critical mass online. What it really entails is opening channels and education opportunities for dinosaur enthusiasts to learn about the real science and fossil evidence of the magnificent ancient creatures. Here are some eye-opening opportunities embraced by dinosaur enthusiasts in the local community and beyond.

Groundbreaking research: Reconstructing dinosaurs with lasers

In February 2017, Dr. Pittman and his collaborators reconstructed the first highly detailed body outline of a feathered dinosaur based on high-definition images of its preserved soft tissues. This discovery was a major milestone, allowing paleontologists to reconstruct details of fossils in colour. The research was published in National Geographic and BBC News, reaching readers from round the globe.
The Catalytic Role of e-Learning

Armillary Sphere

An app that revives an ancient invention

Professor Sun Kwok, Chair Professor of Space Science and Director of Laboratory for Space Research worked with HKU TELi team to reconstruct the armillary sphere, an ancient astronomical invention from ~200 B.C. into a modernized 21st century e-Learning app.

The armillary sphere app is the first of its kind in the world, and it is used the first time by 60 students to solve real-time astronomical problems together in Professor Kwok’s Common Core Class Our Place in the Universe.

“I find Prof Kwok’s aim in trying to incorporate these old ancient tools into our modern classroom to be fascinating, it’s part of our history and culture so it’s important that we learn about it.”

Erik Nygren (Year 1 Economics & Finance Student)
Feel engaged and empowered

In a flipped classroom conducted by Dr. Timothy Wotherspoon, students were asked to work in small groups with the armillary sphere app to determine the time and position of sunrise and sunset based on their birthdays. The end product of the activity was a chart plotted real-time from the class’s birthday data.

Dr. Wotherspoon said after the class, “We saw students interacting, engaging in cross-talk and discussions. The more tech-savvy students feel empowered to help the others who seemed less familiar with the app.”

Listen to the students’ voices

Most of the students in the class used technology at a fairly sophisticated level, and TELI colleagues were keen to listen to the feedback and to learn from the students’ experience and questions in using the app. After all, the students are the best beta testers of the university’s learning resources.

Gathering from the students’ attitudes, behaviors and perceptions in using digital technology in learning, we well understood that technology is not an extra but an essential when it comes to learning.

“I think one area to improve on is to add a slide to show how to use the app to help people learn to use the armillary sphere.”

Ng Wing Lam Vivian (BMB Science)

“To use more apps during the class and lectures, for example in our Statistics class, we can use apps to model risks and mortality rates. With the use of apps, we have a better vision of those concepts which are abstract.”

Arnold (Year 1 Actuarial Science Student)

“When I work with my partner, I also find that there are some concepts that she doesn’t understand and I have the chance to teach her.”

Calvin Poon (Year 2 Civil Engineering Student)

Armillary Sphere screenshots

Swipe-touch panel - Swipe fingers on the display panel for desired movement of armillary sphere rings

Marker - Mark the desired marking for specific measurement to be made

Modern texture mode - Improve legibility of markers on the sphere