From Blended to MOOC and Back

Lessons from online language courses in multiple contexts

David O’Steen - Wellesley College
“ItalianOnline”

Limited enrollment fully online course: offered 3 summers to Wellesley students and alumnae

Blended course: taught 5 terms at Wellesley, 2 terms at MIT

MOOC: open to the entire world at no cost for one year
Our Hero

Daniela Bartalesi-Graf

Lecturer in Italian Studies, Wellesley College
Summer Courses

Online plus web conferencing discussion sessions with tutor 1x/week

Number of Wellesley College students enrolled in the three summer SPOCs (Small Private Online Courses) versions of the online course

- Current students
- Incoming students
What Have We Accomplished?

Blended Courses

3 days in-person (was 5). All materials, assessments, writing practice, etc. online.

Increased enrollments

More than doubled percentage of first-year students
What Have We Learned?
Blended Courses

3 days in-person (was 5). All materials, assessments, writing practice, etc. online.

Students write more (in discussion forums) and it is of higher quality than in any previous course.

Instructor: Able to conduct higher-level verbal interactions, with more complexity; could successfully employ more idiom and humor in class.

Evaluator: “The discourse in the target language was of a much higher level than you find in a traditional first semester Beginning Italian class.”
MOOCs

3 edX MOOCs (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), self-paced, Jan 2016 - Jan 2017

Over 70,000 students enrolled

Ages 8 - 102

189 countries
What Have We Learned? Blended and MOOCs

Go to menti.com and use the code 36 95 82

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Mean values:
1: not at all useful
2: slightly useful
3: moderately useful
4: very useful
5: extremely useful

- Ciak videos
- Grammar charts
- Video lessons
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Campus
MOOC (Beginner)
MOOC (Intermediate)
MOOC (Advanced)