

MOOCs¹ on the VLC

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The *Virtual Linguistics Campus* (VLC) has been operational since 2001 and the experience it has gained through the years has now been applied to the world's most recent concept of computer-based learning and teaching, the (free) massive open online course.

The first VLC-MOOC "Phonetics, Phonology and Transcription" started on 15 April with 420 participants from 62 nations and was successfully finished on 31 May 2013.



Mastery Learning and Video Support



The general concept of the MOOC involves freely accessible instructional videos. The VLC-team has been producing such videos since mid-2012 and has meanwhile created the world's leading linguistics video channel on YouTube with 200 videos, more than 1.500 views per day, and currently ca. 3.000 subscribers. The international reaction has been overwhelmingly positive and has led to quality-assured video material that is used all over the world.

In addition to all other MOOCs on the web, and as a special quality feature, the VLC offers multimedia material (virtual sessions) plus a multitude of additional exercises and an operational and well-tested e-assessment infrastructure. All E-Learning units on the VLC have the same structure. They consist of a virtual session, they involve an electronic test and they have a practical sheet with temporally-fixed model solutions.

The Virtual Sessions

The Virtual Sessions supply all participants with highly interactive multimedia content plus an E-Lecture that can also be independently accessed on YouTube. Thus, studying online on the VLC means: working through the content of the virtual sessions of a class.

Assessment on the VLC

All assessments in a VLC MOOC are carried out on the basis of electronic tests – the so-called “worksheets”, one per E-Learning unit. Worksheets have to be passed, that is participants have to score at least 60%. If they do not reach 60% or more in a first attempt they can try as often as they like – and no one will notice. Only if they pass their score will be stored in the VLC-data base – and if they are not satisfied with their score, they can do it again, and overwrite their score until they are satisfied.

Additional components

Each E-Learning Unit is connected with a practical sheet where additional questions have to be solved. These questions are paired with model solutions that can be retrieved according to a pre-defined rhythm. The model solutions can be textual explanations, diagrams or short videos that explain the problem.

Further questions can be discussed in the class-related forum.

Certification

Two certificates can be obtained: A statement of participation for regular attendance and a statement of accomplishment. The latter requires a worksheet average of 60% or more.

The Future

We will offer the following additional MOOCs this fall (Registration starts on 1 July, Class Start: Sept. 2013):

- Linguistics 101 – Fundamentals
- Linguistics 102 – Speech Science
- Linguistics 103 – The Nature of Meaning

With these classes, we will cover some of the central topics in linguistics and beyond.

Further information: www.linguistics-online.com

¹ MOOC = Massive Open Online Course

MOOCs on the VLC (ST 2013)

Linguistics 101



Linguistics 101 – Fundamentals

Linguistics 102



Linguistics 102 – Speech Science

Linguistics 103



Linguistics 103 – The Nature of Meaning

Registration 1 July 2013 onw.