THE WEEKLY GEEK

Welcome to The Weekly Geek
This is a new e-newsletter from the Information & Instructional Technology Departments at Dakota County Technical College. Each week will have a different technology related topic.

That nosy neighbor that is keeping up with what everyone else is doing…or with education keeping up with what other schools are offering or how other instructors teach the same course. Nosy? Peeping? Or Research?

This week's Weekly Geek offers some resources for open courseware or open courses that leave their blinds wide open so you can see what they are doing. The courses offer course outlines, activities, lectures, course materials from a variety of colleges and universities from all over the world…for free. Whether you are just nosy, doing research or even interested in taking a course the sites in this issue offer a multitude of topics and courses.

www.saylor.org

The goal of the Saylor Foundation is to provide free courses using technology. It has a current catalog of nearly 300 courses and is continuing to develop more. The courses are developed by faculty but do not offer course credit. Even if you do not want to take a course, it does provide a ton of online resources that you could include in your own course – online textbooks, lectures, demonstrations and activities.

www.oercommons.org

Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you many use and reuse without charge. The commons has brought together full courses, lectures, interactive mini-lessons and e-textbooks.   This site offers materials from K-postsecondary and you can search by topic, level and type of materials you are looking for.

www.oli-cmu.edu

The Open Learning Initiative is a grant-funded group Carnegie Mellon University offering online courses to anyone that want to learn or teach. It is a much smaller list of courses, but the ones they have are very well organized and offer great resources or even possible replacement for textbooks.

www.ocwconsortium.org

The Open Courseware Consortium is a site that compiles open (free) courses and course from colleges and universities around the world including MIT, Harvard, Yale, John Hopkins, and Tufts University.

www.coursera.com   **www.udacity.com**

Both Coursera and Udacity have been getting lots of press (both good & bad) in the higher education and instructional technology circles in the last year. They have partnered with major universities to provide massive open online courses (MOOC). These two sites are different than the open courseware courses, to access the course content you need to take the course…which vary in length from 7-14 weeks. But don't worry, you won't be alone, these courses do not have a class max – there are 100's-1000's of students in each course.

Questions or Topic Suggestions: Weekly.Geek@dctc.edu

An archive of The Weekly Geek: http://blogs.dctc.edu/WeeklyGeek