

Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning & HHMI
Guest Lecturer

Lessons from a Basement Studio on How to Make - and Use - a “Sticky” Online Course to Enhance Student Learning

Dr. Barbara Oakley
Oakland University

Monday, March 30, 2015
9:30 am, Schaap 1116

Barbara Oakley, Ph.D., P.E., author of *A Mind for Numbers*, is a Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineers and an engineering professor at Oakland University. The free Coursera - UC San Diego MOOC, [Learning How to Learn](#), which she teaches with Terrence Sejnowski, the Francis Crick Professor at the Salk Institute, had well over half a million students in its first six months alone.

From [Class Central](#) on her Learning How to Learn MOOC:

“Barbara shares that she has had a great time developing this MOOC. She is not a fan of boring lectures, and noted that some professors simply replicate their classroom lectures in their MOOC, and so do not take full advantage of the online medium. Thus, in this MOOC, she has put in the extra effort to design the content to be as rich as possible to convey each concept:

I have animations and all sorts of interesting things flying around in the videos and can compress what would ordinarily be an hour-long lecture into 6-7 minutes because it's all right there and you are getting it crystallized and synthesized...I have to say that I have written a lot of books, and doing a MOOC—a very well-done MOOC – is harder than writing a book.”

Biographical Information:

Dr. Oakley earned a B.A. in Slavic Languages and Literature, from the University of Washington. She then worked four years in Germany as a Signal Officer in the US Army, and rose to become a Captain. While completing a B.S. in electrical engineering, she worked several fishing seasons as a Russian translator on Soviet trawlers in the Bering Sea and spent a season as the radio operator at the South Pole Station in Antarctica. While working as an engineer and raising young children she completed her M.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering in 1995, and a Ph.D. in systems engineering in 1998 from Oakland University. Upon completing her Ph.D. she joined the engineering department as a faculty member at Oakland University.