

**MASS OPEN ON-LINE COURSEWARE (MOOCS) IN ECONOMICS: NEWS FROM THE FRONTIER OF A
DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN ECONOMICS EDUCATION**

Rebecca M Stein, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Gloria Allione, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

[dx.doi.org/10.18374/CBR-2-2.4](https://doi.org/10.18374/CBR-2-2.4)

ABSTRACT

A Massive Open Online Course (or MOOC) is a course given over the web, for free to anyone who is interested in signing up and has the basic technical capabilities to do so. Platforms include Coursera, Udacity and edX. The University of Pennsylvania joined as a partner with Coursera in 2012 and our course, Principles of Microeconomics, was one of the first courses to run as part of this partnership. This paper describes the steps we took to prepare and run a MOOC on and the results we got in terms of participation, retention and feedback. We had success in creating videos and quizzes and auto graded assignments but only mixed success with peer assessed exercises that required substantial time commitment from students. Overall students appreciated the ability to learn about economics in this rigorous introductory course for free. This paper will assist others as they consider and prepare other courses in this medium.

Keywords: *on-line, education, students*