In Friend of OCW's May Newsletter   <u>View this email in your browser</u>

MITOPEN**COURSEWARE**
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Please support MIT OpenCourseWare

> *"I cannot believe I can get all these lectures for free. I've gone from not having a single clue about computers 2 years ago to being a computer hardware addict. I have built countless machines and now, have began using game engines such as Unity & CryEngine all of which I learned about through OCW on YouTube. I can learn the fundamentals of computation and computer language in these lectures now too. Thanks again for having these up for free."*
> *- Pauls, fan of OCW's YouTube Channel*

Dear Friend of OCW,

Our Spring fundraising challenge is underway and we have <u>31 more days to reach our 1,000 OCW donors goal</u>.

Your donation today will get us closer to securing $15,000 and help us continue to deliver the free MIT educational materials so many people rely upon for improving their knowledge and livelihood. <u>Please consider donating to OCW</u> today.

If you've already donated, then thank you for joining our growing community of supporters.

Sincerely,
Krishna Rajagopal
Dean for Digital Learning, Open Learning
MIT Professor of Physics

M. Amah Edoh on Creating a Supportive Academic Culture

M. Amah Edoh, Assistant Professor of African Studies (Image courtesy of Jonathan Sachs Photography.)

By Peter Chipman, OCW Digital Publication Specialist and OCW Educator Assistant

Assistant Professor M. Amah Edoh is a young faculty member, young enough to remember what it felt like to be a student. Her approach to teaching reflects this fact. The Instructor Insights section of the OpenCourseWare site for her course *21G.026 Global Africa: Creative Cultures* provides interesting details about how she taught that specific course, but it also offers a generous helping of observations about pedagogy in general and the role faculty members can play in helping students move from mystery to mastery. Here are a few highlights.

Course Planning

Every academic course has a central topic or idea, but Professor Edoh emphasizes that the instructor should also consider what the central question is, so that the course can be an exploration rather than a mere transfer of information:

> "It's crucial to be clear on what the core issue is, what the question is that animates this class….As long as the core question is clear, you can tailor the building blocks to your interests."

Of course, students will bring more energy to the classroom if their work there also draws on their own interests, not just their professor's.

[> Read the complete article](#)

IMAGE ADAPTED BY MIT OPENCOURSEWARE
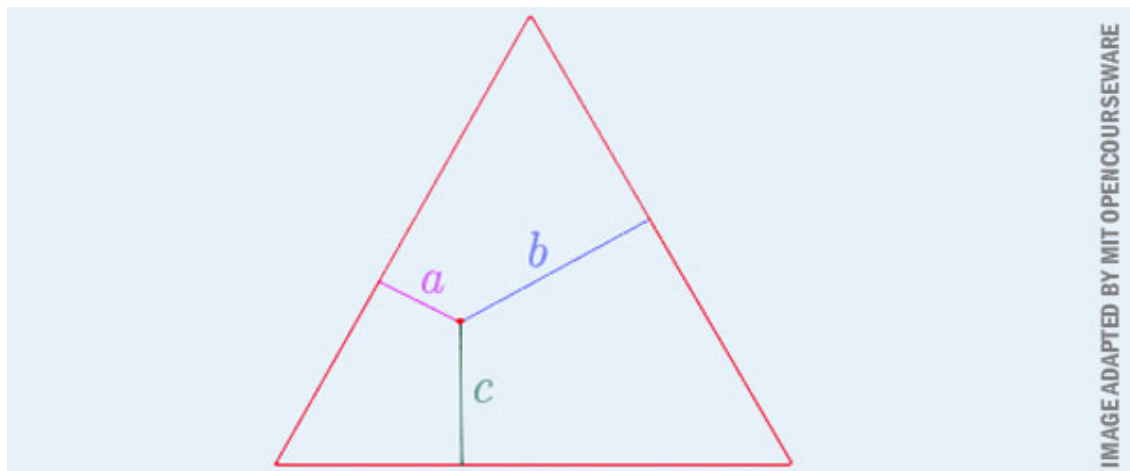
[18.A34 Mathematical Problem Solving (Putnam Seminar)](#) **(Updated Course)** This course is a seminar intended for undergraduate students who enjoy solving challenging mathematical problems, and to prepare them for the Putnam Competition. All students officially registered in the class are required to participate in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

PHOTO BY SCOTT OGLE ON FLICKR

[15.960 New Executive Thinking Social-Impact Technology Projects](#) **(New Course)** This customized independent study course puts Sloan Fellows MBA students into direct contact with innovators tackling global needs in education, healthcare, and energy/environment. Co-designed projects address low-income markets in the U.S. or globally, focusing on the application of new ideas and technology rooted in MIT innovations or the Boston ecosystem. Every project aims to develop better ways for the right innovations to reach scale, sustainability, and quality, thereby improving lives and uncovering opportunities in underserved markets.

BELA LUGOSI AS DRACULA

[21L.310 Bestsellers: Out for the Count](#) **(New Course)** This class uses a range of literary texts to trace the growth of the vampire trope from its first appearance in English-language fiction in the early years of the nineteenth century. Centering on classic works by Lord Byron, John Polidori, Sheridan le

Fanu, Bram Stoker, and others, we learn about the formation of the modern literary canon, the folklore of the undead, and the creation of one of the most prolific popular culture genres—vampire fiction—which reached its first apotheosis in Stoker's masterwork, Dracula.

IMAGE BY JONATHAN PETERSSON ON UNSPLASH

[6.436J Fundamentals of Probability](#) **(Updated Course)** This is a course on the fundamentals of probability geared towards first or second-year graduate students who are interested in a rigorous development of the subject. The course covers sample space, random variables, expectations, transforms, Bernoulli and Poisson processes, finite Markov chains, and limit theorems. There is also a number of additional topics such as: language, terminology, and key results from measure theory; interchange of limits and expectations; multivariate Gaussian distributions; and deeper understanding of conditional distributions and expectations.

Views from OCW Supporters

"I really really appreciate MIT doing this. It has been a pleasure to go through a course online for fun that I just did not have the time to take when I was in college...I wish more colleges did this. You are making a difference and this is a big step in proving MIT is really interested in educating the world. Someone anywhere can get a good education for free, if they have to will to do it.

-Hale, OCW YouTube fan

> Read more

We'd love to hear from you!

Please share your story about how OCW has made an impact in your life. Whether our resources helped you brush up on your skills, find Open Educational Resources for your classroom, prepare for a course of study, or allowed you to satisfy your curiosity, hearing from learners and educators like you demonstrates the true value of OCW.

Tell us your OCW story

For free resources for high school teachers and students, check out:

MIT OPEN COURSEWARE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
HIGHLIGHTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

More free resources from MIT are available at:

MITx

OCW is grateful for the support of:

TELMEX. está contigo   **accenture** High performance. Delivered.   **MathWorks**

LOCKHEED MARTIN We never forget who we're working for®   **DOW**   **Ab Initio** Ab Initio and OpenCourseWare: Built on fundamentals

OCW is part of MIT Open Learning's efforts to transform teaching and learning at MIT and beyond.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list