

When Students Write the Syllabus

TEACHING THE UNCLASS // NOW, WITH DATA!

@emilywithrow

**How to create a more realistic
representation of complex, real-
world projects in the classroom?**

@emilywithrow

**How to emulate the ongoing
training or “lifetime learning” that
we all experience on a project-by-
project basis?**

@emilywithrow

Can we help students identify
the right **questions**
instead of the answers?

@emilywithrow

Help me help you.

@emilywithrow

Help you help you.

@emilywithrow

Motivation theory:
Choice.
Autonomy.
Relevance.

@emilywithrow

UN CLASS

advanced
interactive
storytelling
& design

@emilywithrow

Unclass model:
Identify a goal.
Figure out how to get there.

Scary stuff:
Uncertainty.
Ambiguity.
Trial and error.
Lost work and time.

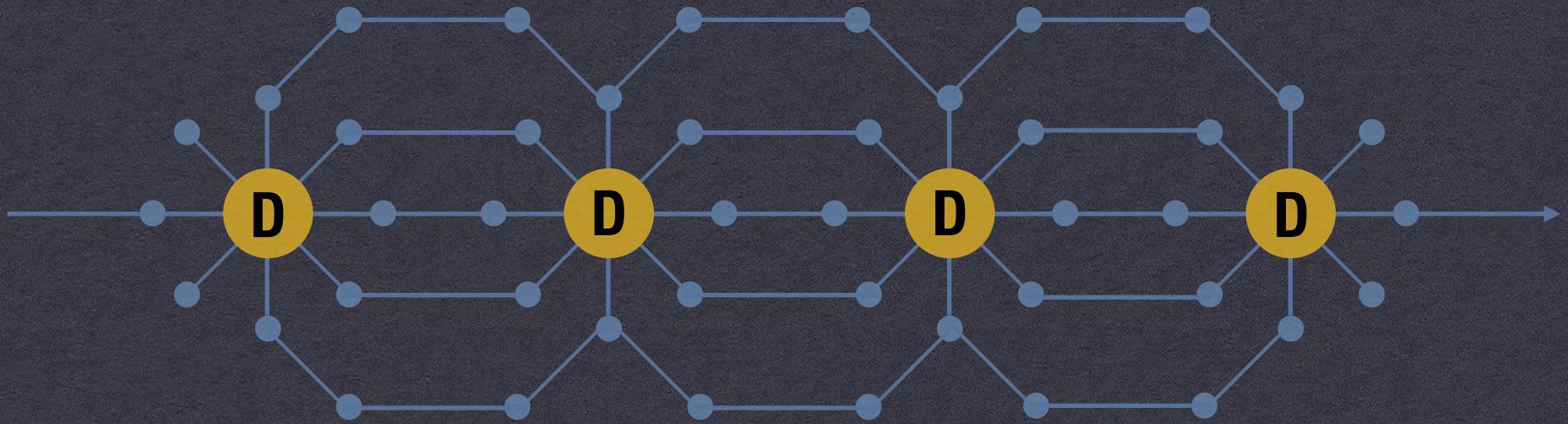
@emilywithrow

Scary stuff:
What we live every day.

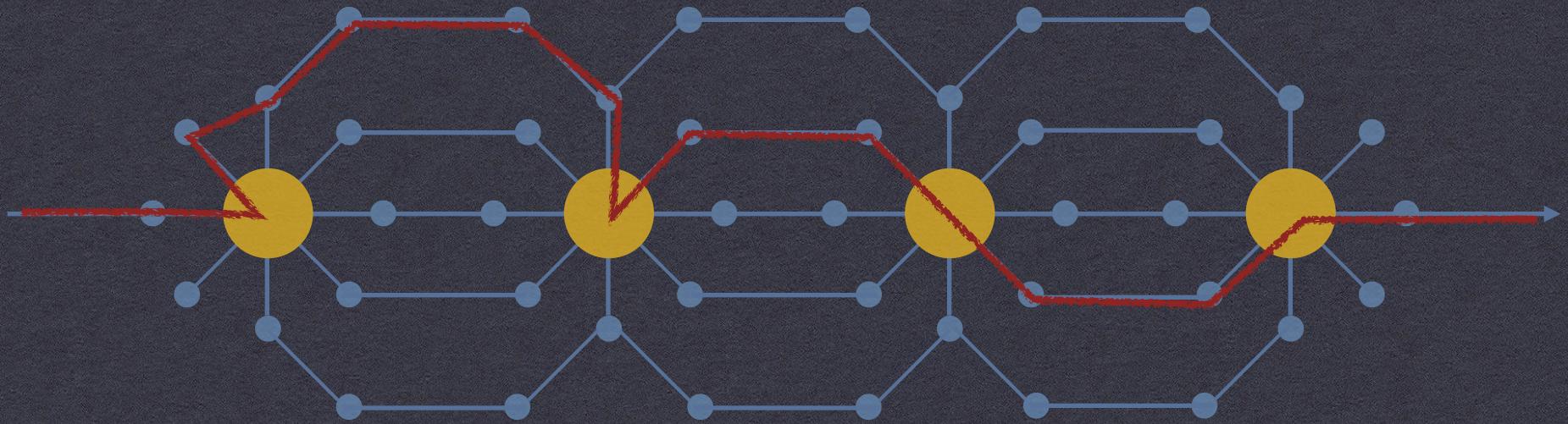
@emilywithrow

The logistics:
Diverse teams.
Opt-in workshops.
Group deadlines.

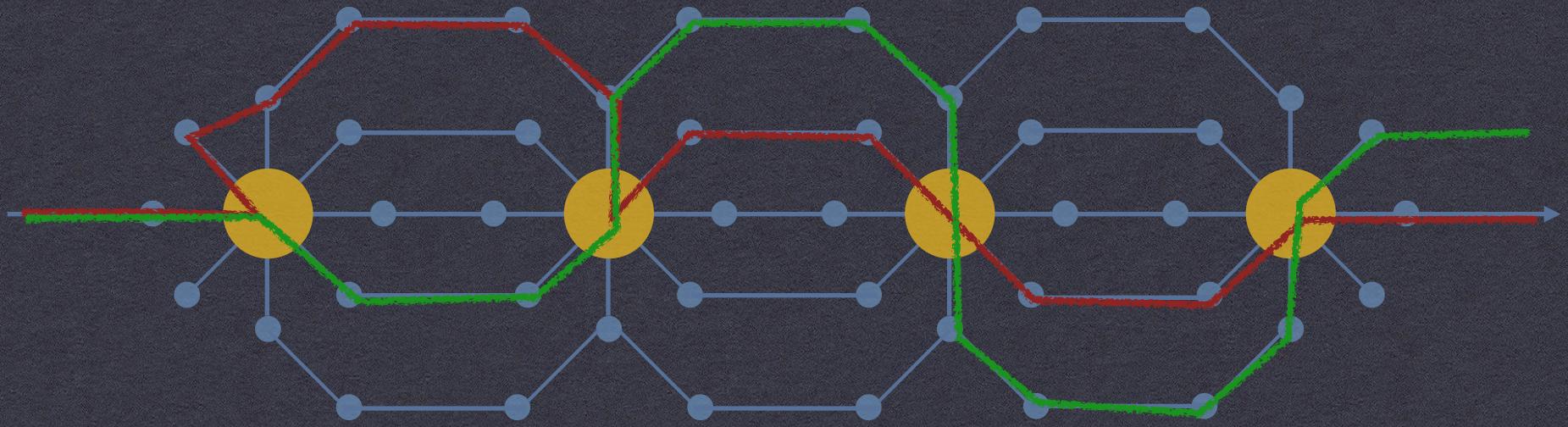
@emilywithrow



@emilywithrow



@emilywithrow



@emilywithrow

Workshops:

**Finding data, data scraping,
cleaning data, rules & regulations,
FOIA, R, JS, D3, case studies,
design, user testing, goal-setting,
the case against circles...**

Unclass model:
Bake in critical thinking,
peer-to-peer learning.

@emilywithrow

Unclass model:

More diversity = more better.

@emilywithrow

**Unclass model:
All levels welcome.**

@emilywithrow

Unclass model:

**Framing: This is a class about
process, not about outcome.**

@emilywithrow

Unclass successes:

...but the outcomes are far better.

@emilywithrow

Testing:

Spring 2013 (undergrad)

Fall 2014 (grad)

Spring 2014 (undergrad)



[View original](#)



KK Rebecca Lai @kkrebeccalai

So excited to help #teachtheweb MT @emilywithrow: Kicking off another #Unclass today. Now featuring team swag! pic.twitter.com/wFdgoYbltm

[Details](#)

[Edit media](#)



[View original](#)

[Edit media](#)



Nicole Zhu @nicolelzhu

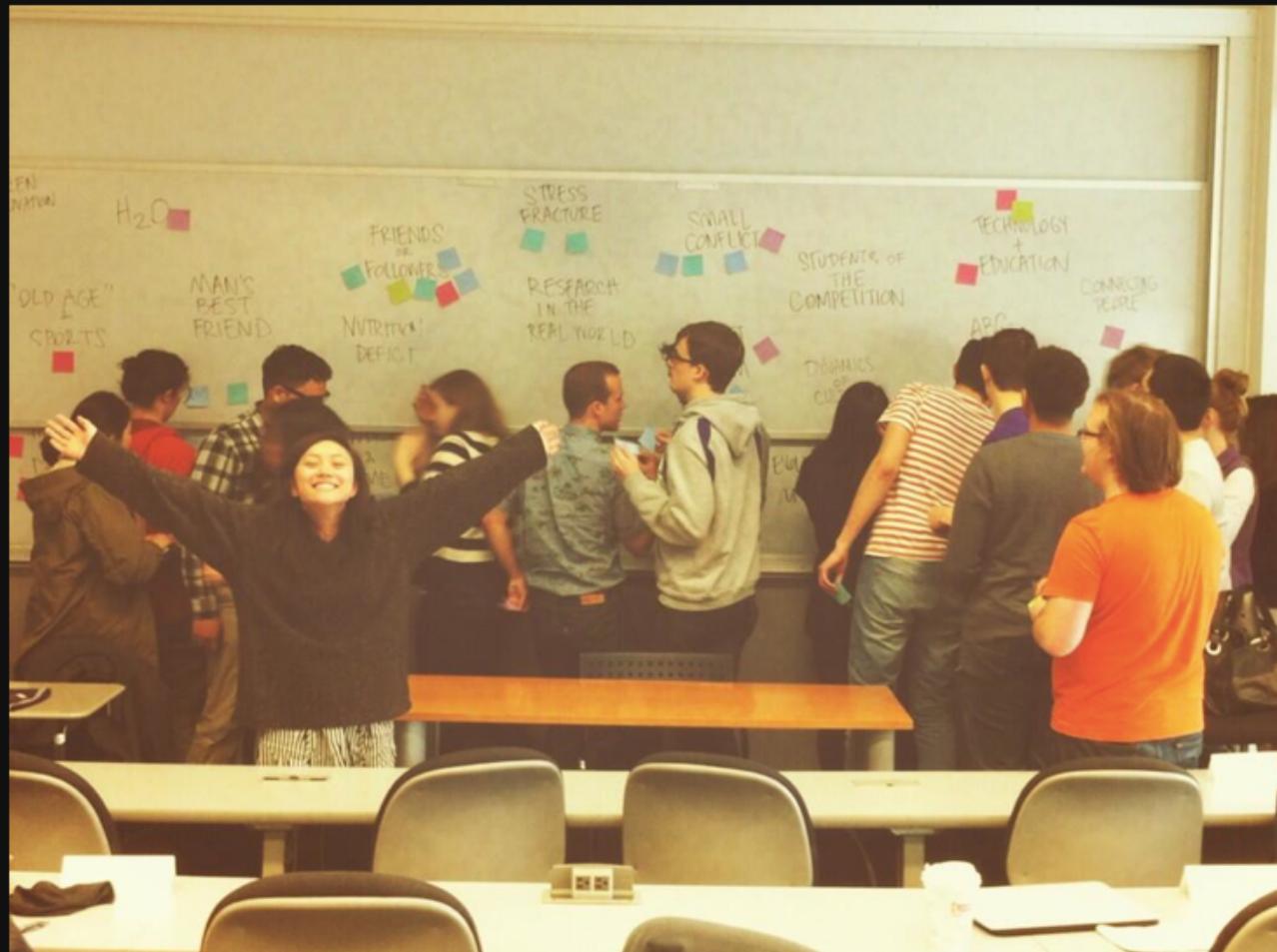
First day of #Unclass with @emilywithrow (and awesome swag!) pic.twitter.com/ztovPZQZ6k

[Details](#)

[24d](#)

SPRING 2014
OPENING DAY

@emilywithrow



[View original](#)

[Close media](#)



KK Rebecca Lai @kkrebeccalai

The power is yours! #unclass deciding on the theme of the projects.
Featuring @ashhwu #teachtheweb pic.twitter.com/Ljs5JeFoAE

22d

Details ⌂ ⌂ ⌂ ⌂ ⌂

SPRING 2014
OPENING DAY

@emilywithrow

Assignments

A+ Pitch a Theme

A+ Workshop Selections Due

A+ Vote for site topic

A+ Team Story Pitch

A+ Mood boards due (one per team)

A+ Final pitch due

A+ Reporting Memo + Draft Storyboard

A+ Kuler color palette

A+ Updated Reporting Memo + Revised Storyboard

A+ Story draft due

A+ Final storyboard + design doc due

A+ HTML + CSS due

A+ Interaction due

A+ Soft launch + presentation prep

A+ Final projects due/final presentations

6	A+ 5pVote for site topic
---	--------------------------

7	1pEditorial Meeting*
	2pMood Boards + Story Boards + GitHub*

8	7pKnight Lab Open Lab
---	-----------------------

9	1pAdvanced Topics: Making the most of libraries
	1pHTML I
	1pJS I
	A+ 1pTeam Story Pitch
	2pCase Studies
	2pHierarchy

14	1pCase Studies
	1pHTML II
	1pJSII
	A+ 1pMood boards due (one per team)
	2pAgile Teams
	2pGrids I
	2pWeb video ≠ broadcast

15	7pKnight Lab Open Lab
----	-----------------------

16	1pAdvanced Topics: GitHub from the command line
	1pCSS I
	1pFeedback session with Andrew Skwish
	1pJSIII
	2pFeedback session with Emily Withrow
	2pGrids II
	A+ 3pFinal pitch due

@emilywithrow

Your Unclass Dance Card

Spring 2013

Name [REDACTED]

Team #6

No.	Workshop Title	Date	Pre-Work Completed	Workshop Completed	Post-Work Completed
1.	Multiplatform Design	4/8			
2.	JS Advanced Topic: Libraries	4/10			
3.	Agile Teams/Projects	4/10			
4.	JQuery I	4/15			
5.	JQuery II	4/17			
6.	JS Advanced Topic: APIs	4/17			
7.	JS III	4/22			
8.	JS Advanced Topic: Info Design	4/24			
9.	JS IV	4/24			
10.	CSS Positioning II	4/31			
11.	... S U M M A R Y ...	4/29			

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANS PRELIMINARY SKETCHES

@emilywithrow

Successes:

Tailored to student need.

Experts teaching expertise.

Flexibility.

Student-driven.

Peer-to-peer learning.

Final projects.

@emilywithrow

THANKS FOR LISTENING

Be in touch:

**Emily Withrow
Assistant Professor, Medill
Northwestern University**

@emilywithrow