

CourseMine | Competitive Analysis

Brief Problem Statement

Students often find it difficult to make a well informed decision when selecting courses. Some of the major hurdles in choosing a course include, searching for courses across all schools (no centralized search facility connecting all schools), gathering course feedback/reviews, statistics of the course, and comparing courses. At present, these issues are addressed by finding and talking to people who have already taken the course, circulating a shared document with course information/reviews, searching on the internet, and so on. All these tasks are not only cumbersome but also result in misinterpretation and, lack of substantial information.

Wolverine Access

University of Michigan let's students search, manage, and register courses through Wolverine access. Some of the key pain points with the system include,

- i. Searching for a course is not intuitive and is two step process, requiring you to know
 - i. Subject code with which the course is associated with. Example - SI
 - ii. Course code. Example - 582

The screenshot shows the 'Class Search' interface. It has two main input fields: 'Subject' and 'Course Number'. The 'Subject' field is highlighted with a green box labeled 'select subject' and contains the text 'SI'. The 'Course Number' field is highlighted with a green box labeled '500'. Below these fields are radio buttons for course levels: '100 level', '200 level', '300 level', '400 level', and '500 and above'. There are also checkboxes for 'Show Open Classes Only' (checked) and 'Include Independent Study Classes' (unchecked). The 'SI' and '500' inputs are circled in black, indicating they are required for the search.

- ii. Options that should be made available as filters on search results are instead included as a part of search process, and can only be seen after selecting the

'Advanced Search' option

Additional Search Criteria

Meeting Start Time

Meeting End Time

Days of Week

☐ Mon ☐ Tues ☐ Wed ☐ Thurs ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Instructor Last Name

Class Nbr

Course Title Keyword

Minimum Units

Maximum Units

Session

- iii. The organization of search results is poorly structured.
 - i. Column headers are redundant - they are repeated for every row
 - ii. Room number is not critical in the search results, it can be displayed in the course description page
 - iii. Unnecessary empty column at the end of each row
 - iv. Inability to filter search results
 - v. Instead of having symbols for status and having to look at the legend to understand what each symbol means, it is more effective to write the status in a color encoded text

IS 500 - Info in Soc Systems											
Class	Section	Days & Times	Room	Instructor	Meeting Dates	Units	Enrl Restrict	Seats Reserved For	Avail Seats	Wait List Total	Status
28062	001-L&C Regular	Fr 10:00AM - 11:30AM	1324 EH	Cook,Eric C. Wallace,David A	09/02/2014 - 12/10/2014	3	N	N/A	36	0	●
Class	Section	Days & Times	Room	Instructor	Meeting Dates	Units	Enrl Restrict	Seats Reserved For	Avail Seats	Wait List Total	Status
30572	002-005 S&P&C	Mo 5:00PM - 6:30PM	1265 NQ	Chandra,Priyank	09/02/2014 - 12/10/2014	3	Y	School of Information Programs-1	0	0	■
Class	Section	Days & Times	Room	Instructor	Meeting Dates	Units	Enrl Restrict	Seats Reserved For	Avail Seats	Wait List Total	Status
30573	004-005 Regular	Tu 10:00AM - 11:30AM	2245 NQ	Katzman,Elizabeth	09/02/2014 - 12/10/2014	3	Y	School of Information Programs-3	0	0	■

- iv. Course Details page lacks vital information like,
 - i. Reviews/Ratings of the course
 - ii. Statistics of the course over a period of time in the past

- iii. No information about related courses
- iv. No direct link to prerequisite courses, only course number is provided
- v. Some of the flaws present across the entire application
 - i. Navigation is very poorly handled - states are not preserved when moving from page to page, thereby clicking on back button at any step takes you directly to the starting page
 - ii. Information is not structured/organized appropriately
 - iii. User experience can be made much better

LSA Course Guide

It is a course guide system designed for College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Although it provides comprehensive search facilities, it still has several problems like,

- i. No way to filter/refine search results

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LSA Course Guide Search Results: UG, Fall 2014, Keyword = general physics

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Title	Term	Credits	Instructor	Req
PHYSICS 140 - General Physics I Section 100 (LEC)	FA 2014	4	Ries, Keith	Reqs: SS, NS, QR1
PHYSICS 140 - General Physics I Section 200 (LEC)	FA 2014	4	Popov, Yuri O	Reqs: SS, NS, QR1
PHYSICS 140 - General Physics I Section 300 (LEC)	FA 2014	4	Uher, Ctirad	Reqs: SS, NS, QR1

- ii. It is important to display course timings on the search results too, as it helps to decide if there is a conflict in course timings instead of having to open each course and look for timings
- iii. It is limited to courses only from Literature, Science and Arts
- iv. Information in the course description is not intuitively organized, requiring you to click on sections or scroll down to the section, and click on the accordion title. This

again is a two step process.

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PHYSICS 140 - General Physics I		Page Index
Section: 100		Details ↗
Term: FA 2014		Description ↗
Subject: Physics (PHYSICS)		Schedule ↗
Department: LSA Physics		Textbooks/Other Materials ↗
		Syllabi ↗

Details ▾	
Credits:	4
Requirements & Distribution:	BS, NS, GR/1
Credit Exclusions:	No credit granted to those who have completed or are enrolled in PHYSICS 125, 135, 139 or 160.
Waitlist Capacity:	50
Advisory Prerequisites:	MATH 115, 120, 185 or 295. Students should elect PHYSICS 141 concurrently.
BS:	This course counts toward the 60 credits of math/science required for a Bachelor of Science degree.
Repeatability:	May not be repeated for credit.
Primary Instructor:	Riles, Keith

- v. Like the previous system, LSA course guide lacks critical features like,
 - i. Course Reviews/Ratings
 - ii. Statistics of the course like grade distribution, top majors, etc over a period of time in the past
 - iii. No related courses
 - iv. Question & Answers
 - v. No direct link to related courses