# Mary Ellen Wiltrout MITx Digital Learning Scientist Department of Biology mew27@mit.edu





#### Blended Learning in MIT Biology since 2013

#### **MOOCs**

7.00x Intro to Biology



#### on-campus

Introduction to Biology

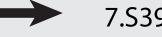
- 7.012: all MOOC content
- 7.013, 7.014, 7.016: select MOOC content
- Brian White at UMass Boston

7.QBWx Quantitative Biology Workshop



QBW Outreach:

all MOOC content



7.S391 QBW:

all MOOC content open to MIT community

7.28x Molecular Biology





7.28/7.58 Molecular Biology: all MOOC content

#### Blended Learning in MIT Biology since 2013

#### Other Courses Using MITx Residential Open edX Platform

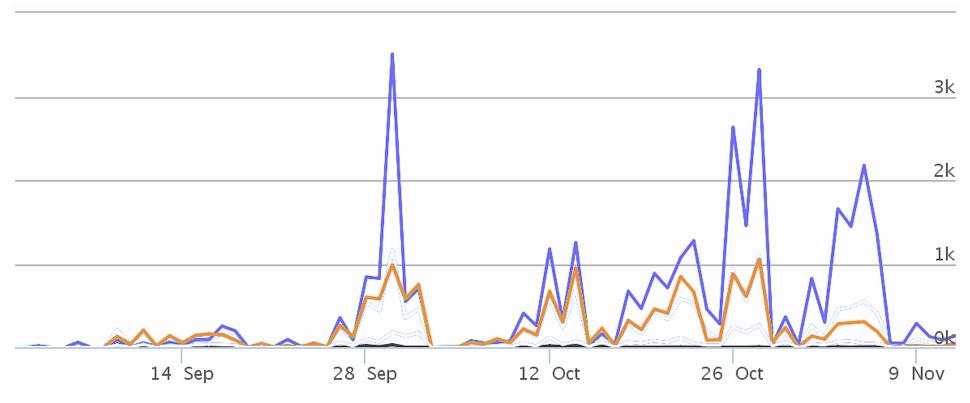
7.06 Cell Biology

7.S390 Creating Digital Learning Materials in Biology

7.03 Genetics in 2014

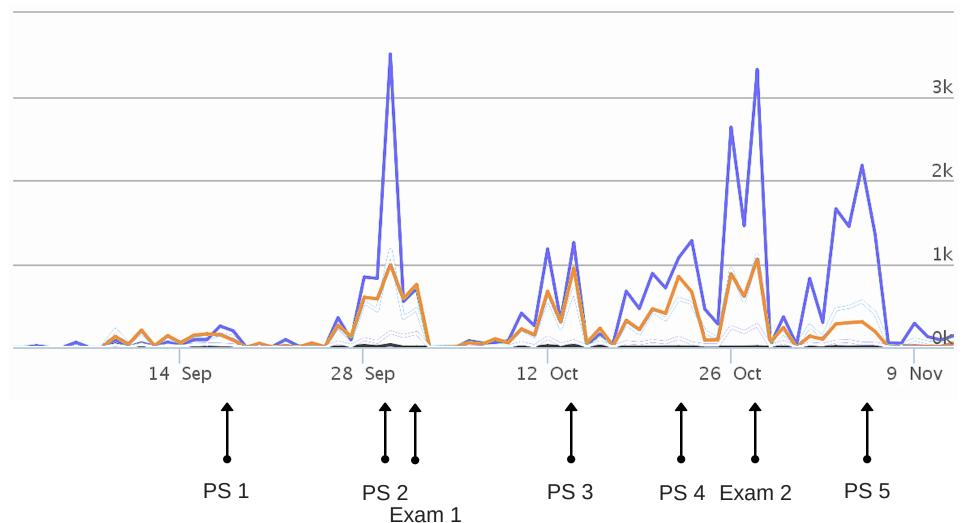
## 7.012 Intro Biology 2015 Site Activity

Purple = video events Orange = problem check events about 500 students



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#### Problem:

Difficult for students to understand biological experiments and experimental design without lab

#### **Potential Solution:**

Give students the option to learn through video designed specifically for the course and based on a research paper

#### **Results:**

Students approve and want more.

Professors see an improvement in engagement and scientific thinking in students.

Four videos 5-8 minute animated videos

Questions posted to MITx site to answer on forum

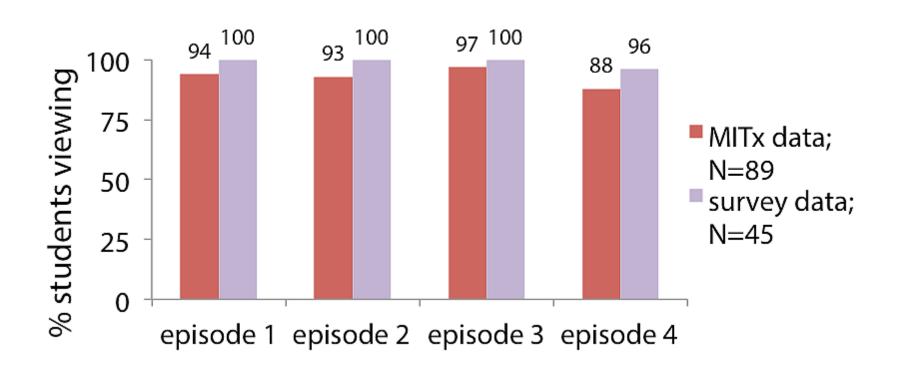
Mud slips after each class

Data collected from MITx site use and survey

All video and discussion forum use not directly tied to a grade

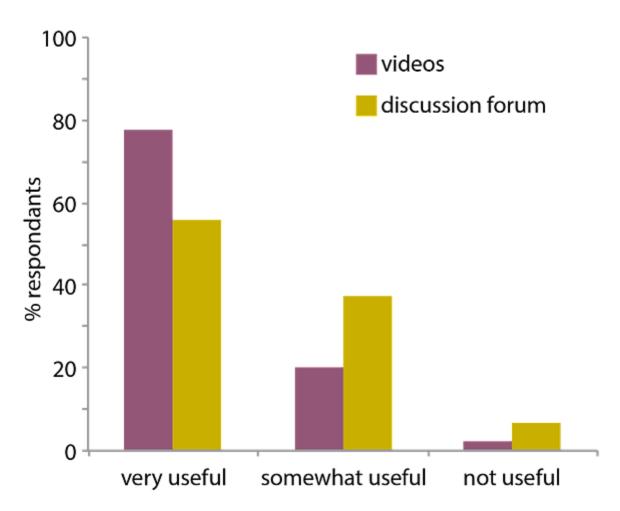
## Neat Experiments in Cell Biology Video





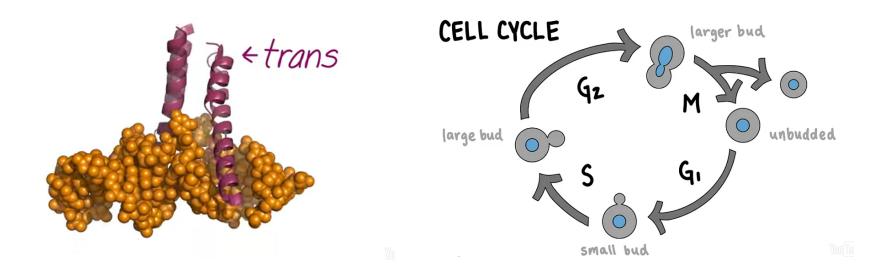
Student comment: "These videos and the discussion questions help A LOT. I feel like I'm actually coming away with an understanding of the experiments and an improved ability to think about experimental design, controls, and how results can be interpreted."

Professor Adam Martin: "The goal of our course is not only to get students to understand how a cell 'thinks', but to also understand how a cell biologist thinks. After using the videos on the MITx site, I noticed a big improvement in students' ability and willingness to suggest experiments that address a cell biological problem in lecture. They were thinking like cell biologists."



"Did you find the 7.06 MITx videos useful as a study aid?" and "Did you find that reading the questions, answers, and comments posted by other students or staff helped you study or understand 7.06 concepts?"

Two new "neat experiments" videos



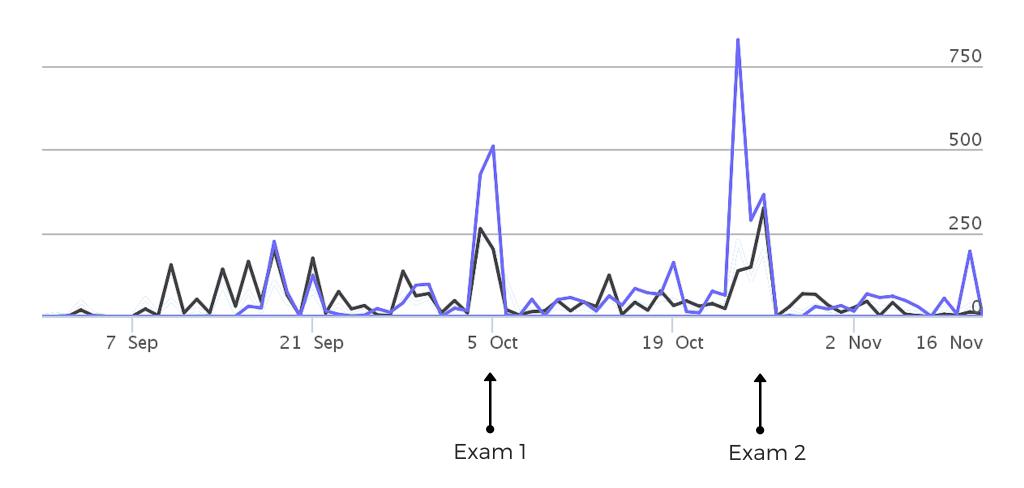
Professor Martin also adopted mud slip practice

Only uses MITx site (no separate Stellar site)



## 7.06 Cell Biology 2015 Site Activity

Purple = video events Black = discussion forum events about 100 students



#### Thank You

#### 7.06 Fall Faculty

Frank Solomon Adam Martin

#### **MITx Bio Team**

Sera Thornton Ceri Riley

Nathaniel Schafheimer Theresa Wasylenko Megan Warner









**MITx Bio** 

