

# Global Health – The Lessons of Ebola: Two Universities Join to Teach an International Audience Via an Inter-Professional Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)



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1. University of Maryland Baltimore
2. University of Maryland University College



## Purpose:

To deliver an inter-professional, team based global health MOOC.

## Background:

- Global health is collaborative; but the educational concept of teams is difficult for students to envision, especially in academic environments defined by discipline.
- Framing the course through a specific health issue offers cogent examples for broader global health team framework discussions.
- The University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) jointly designed and taught a six-week Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), drawing on lessons of a readily identifiable international health crisis for this global health course.

## Challenges

- Some anticipation about project – an inaugural effort between schools.
- Assemble a teaching team appropriate to the topic
  - Multidisciplinary
  - Varied, International Experience
- Focus on the ability to interact with a global and diverse set of students
- Understand MOOC parameters
- Learn the platform
- Develop the module content for an international and multi-disciplinary audience.
- Meeting production deadlines for a four month project.

## Methods:

- Identify a faculty team reflecting broad breadth of discipline and experience, from law, to medicine, to management.
- Presentations, readings, and videos represented full breath of global health field.
- Student discussion questions, written interactions, and presentations brought their diverse health, geography, cultural and education experience to discussions.
- Ebola example offered faculty and students views of the team interplay among medical (patient care), social (burial practices), environmental (disease spread), legal (quarantines and travel), managerial (structuring local responses), and psychological (loss, not touching family members) as examples.
- These examples are interwoven into the six course modules:
  - Perspectives on Global Health/National & International Approaches
  - Women & Children's Health
  - Infectious Disease Epidemiology
  - Global Health Law and Ethics
  - Mass Violence and Civil Unrest
  - Management of Global Health Services
- Define Participation and Success Standards
- Students take the course without cost and, if they complete assignments and participate, are awarded a certificate of participation.

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## Production

- Division of Labor
- Storyboarding
- Content Balance
  - Video
  - Voice
  - Text
- Compelling Images (with copyright permissions)
- Identify and Design Assessments
- International Perspective



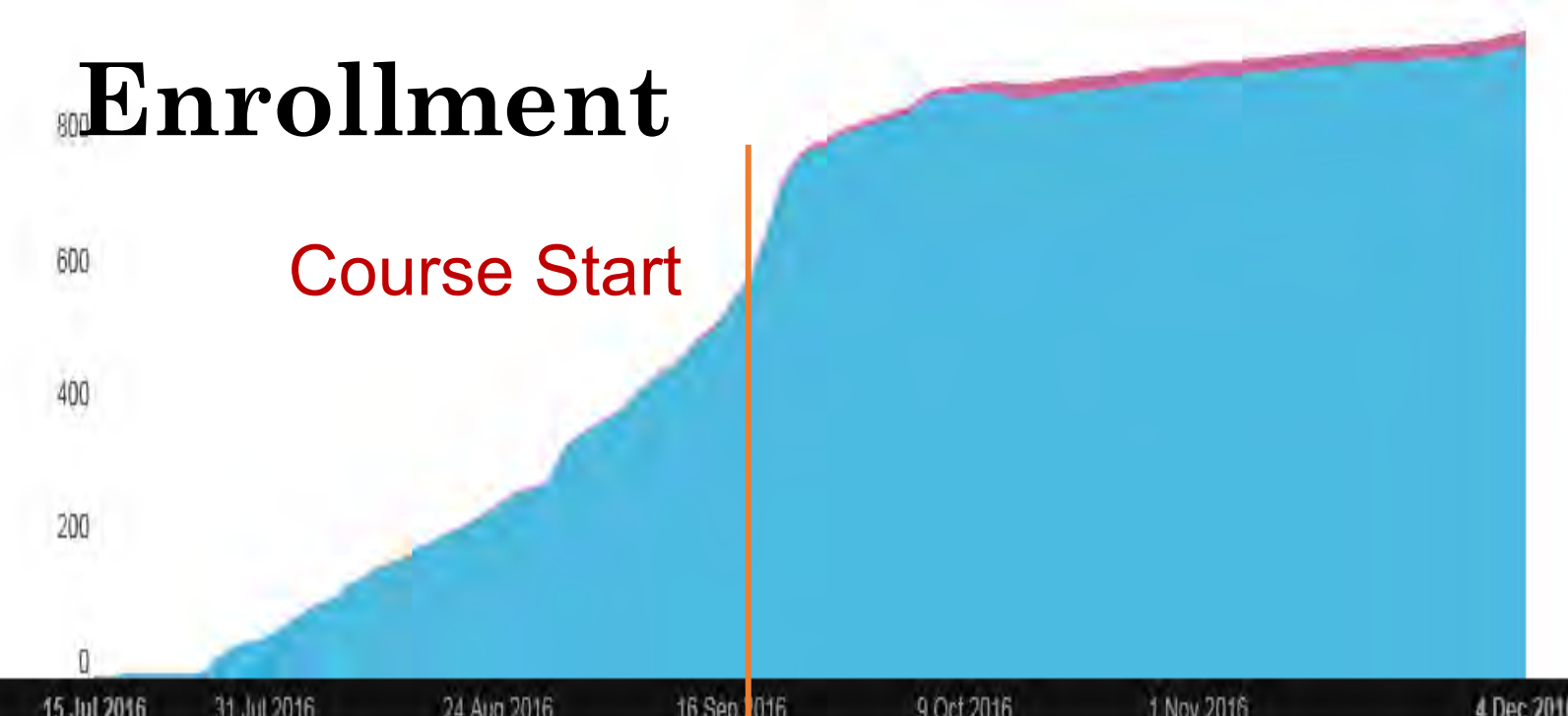
## Execution

- Introductory e-mail
- Monitoring and guiding participation
  - Engagement of a TA
- Transitional correspondence
- Minimal technical questions from students
- Watching enrollment
  - “I came to the MOOC expecting so many students that the course would become unmanageable.”
- Expectation management (see enrollment stats)

## Top 10 Participating Nations

Country	Percent	Enrollment
USA	26.3%	255
Peru	6.0%	58
India	5.5%	53
United Kingdom	4.0%	39
Unknown Country	3.4%	33
Brazil	3.3%	32
Nigeria	3.0%	29
Germany	2.7%	26
Canada	2.4%	23
Mexico	2.2%	21

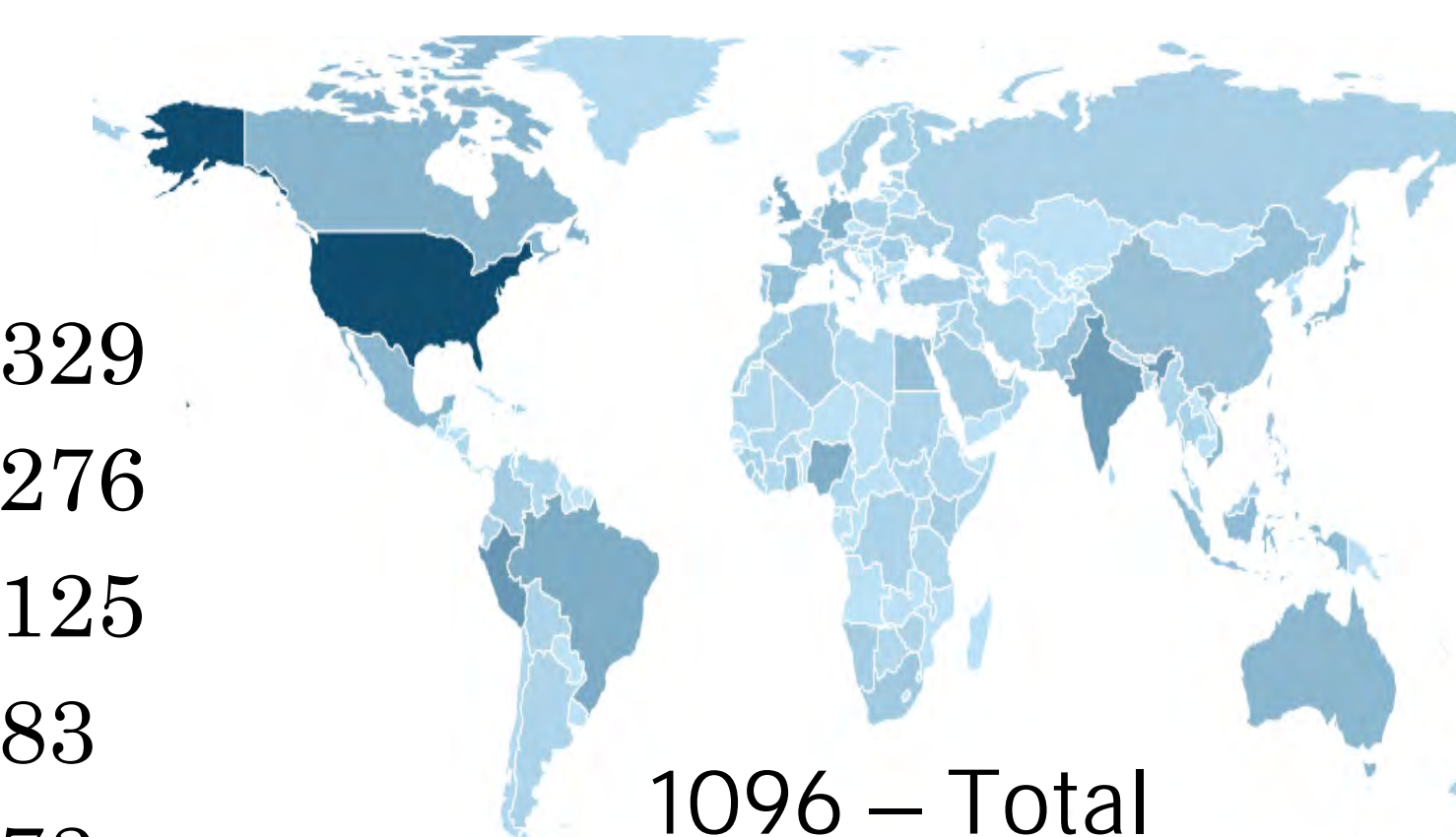
## Outcomes



## Demographics

Median Age:	29
25 and Under:	33.1%
26 to 40:	49.5%
41 and Over:	17.3%
Age Range (Identified):	12-76

Bachelor's	329
Master's	276
Secondary	125
Doctorate	83
Unknown	73
Associate	32
Other	28
Middle	18
Primary	4
None	1



1096 – Total  
969 – Active  
21 – Verified  
118 Nations

## Evaluation & Conclusions

- A successful initiative.
- Success factors:
  - Remarkable inter-institutional collaboration
  - Effective coordination between principals
  - Constant communication
  - Team orientation
- Commitment to continuation and expansion
- Promotion and advertising would increase penetration
- Foundation for jointly administered graduate certificates in global health, starting 1 June 2017.

