The trouble with modules

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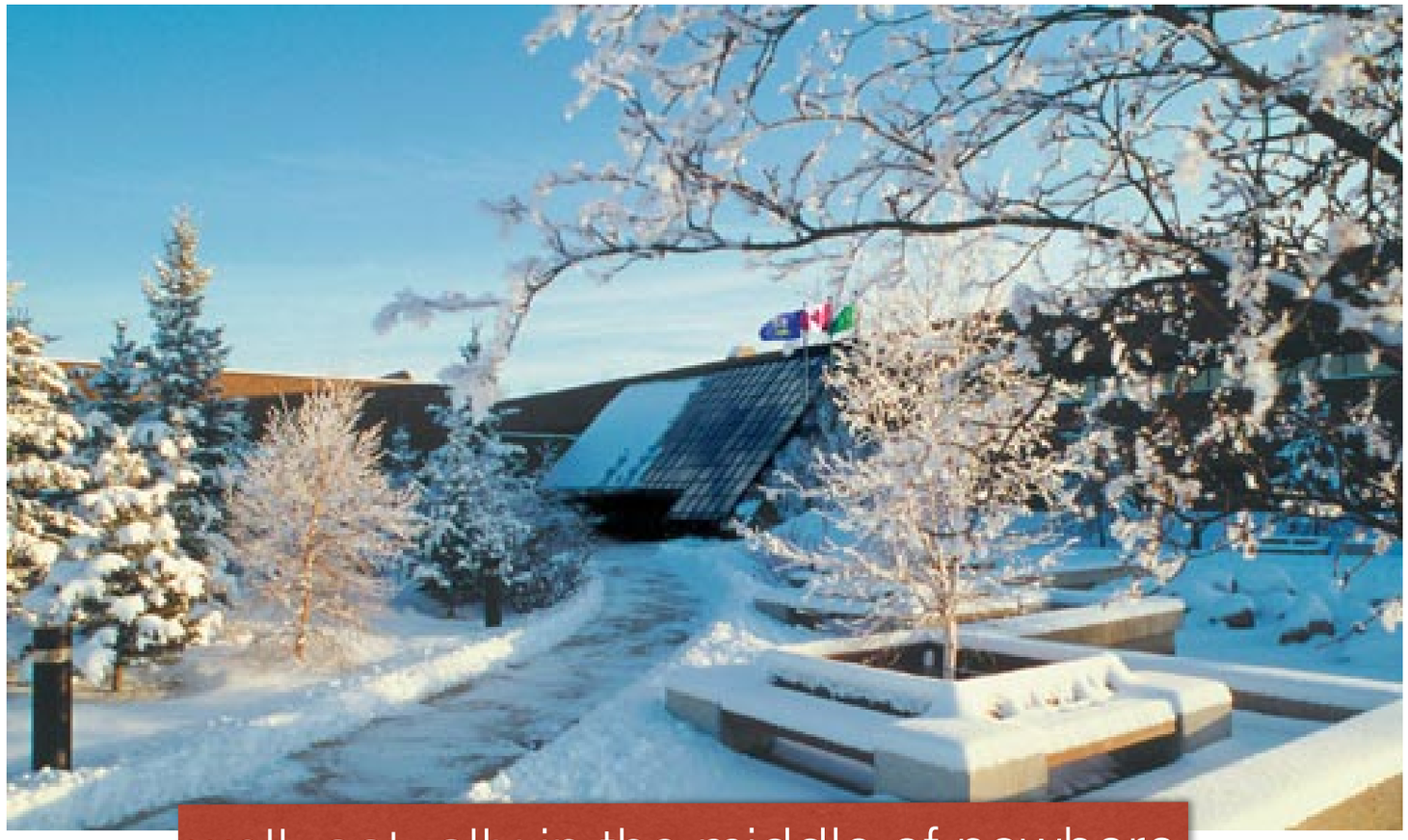
everywhere.



well, actually in the middle of nowhere

(-40°F = -40°C)

BC2283317
Wai Whare
Wai Whare

How do you learn?

Two exercises

What happened?

These are technologies

modules
courses
units
papers

Typical features

- **Objectives and outcomes**: focus on specific skills, competences, knowledge, topics,etc
- **Equivalence**: comparable fixed length, level, accreditation
- **Pacing**: Schedules and timetables
- **Control**: hierarchical management, prerequisites, required modules, etc
- **Process**: integration with institutions, programs, etc
- **Success and failure**: passing and failing

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Why and how?

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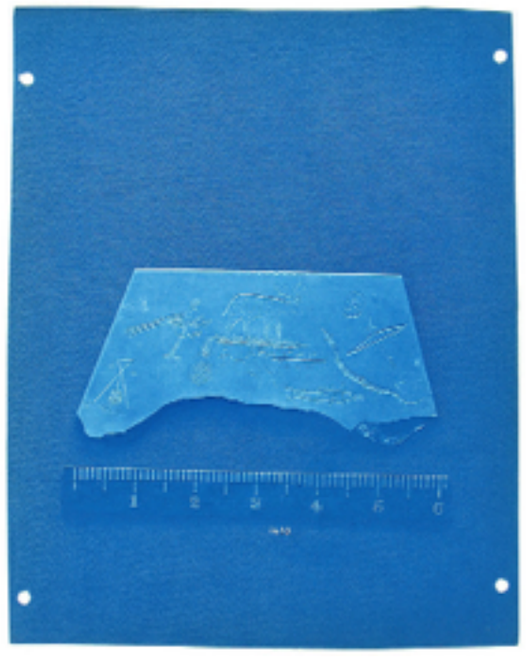
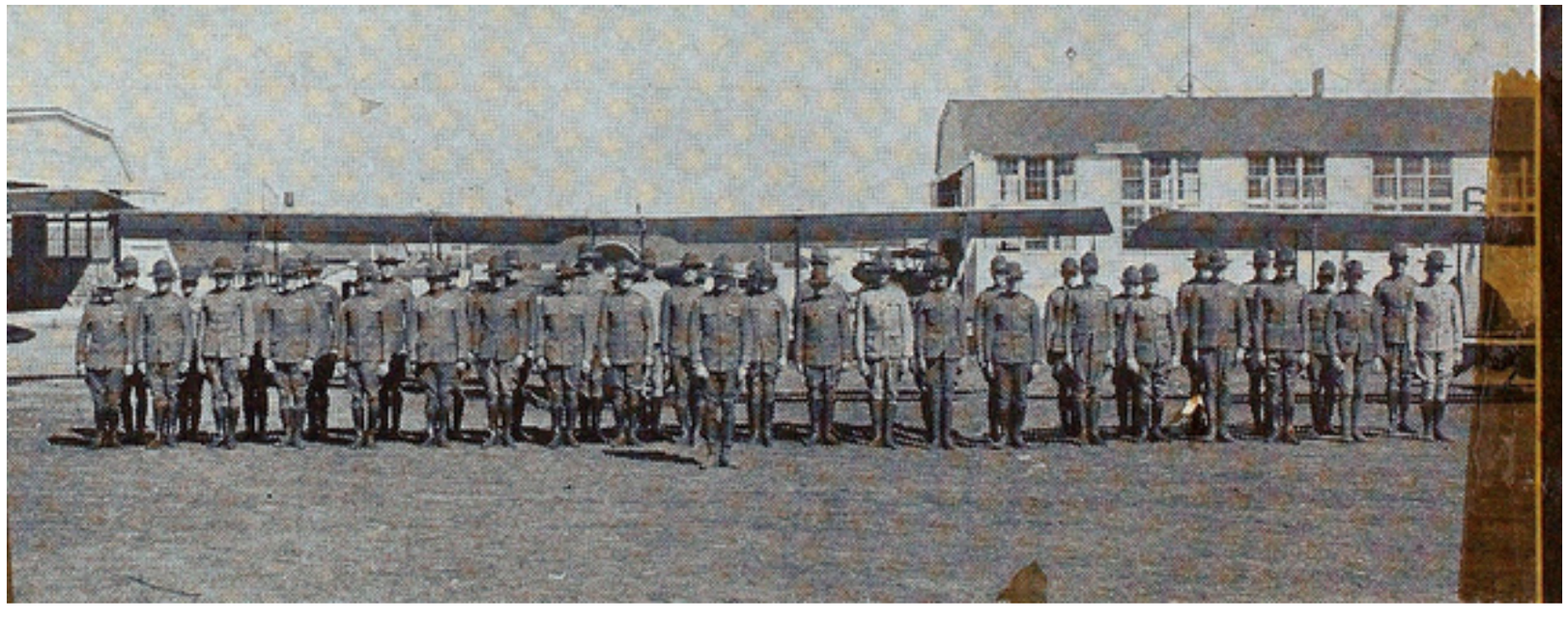


fixed-length pieces

pacing



one size fits all

"In the Stocks again."

choice and control

accreditation

isolation & territories

extrinsic motivation

Intrinsic motivation

autonomy, competence and relatedness

- **Autonomy**: Control - Choice
- **Competence**: Challenge - Change
- **Relatedness**: Connectedness - Collaboration - Cooperation - Care

http://www.selfdeterminationtheory.org

Fixing courses

In a perfect world?

- No fixed-length courses
- Balance of individualisation/ personalisation and community support
- Negotiable outcomes
- On-demand learning
- Student-led
- Separation of accreditation of competency from courses

MSc by Learning Objectives

PhDs

Some MOOCs

We do this already…

Wikipedia

Clubs

Khan Academy

Stack Exchange

What can we do today?

space

place

pace

medium/technology

content

Give more control

outcomes

social engagement

assessments

See Morten Paulsen's Theory of Cooperative Freedom - http://www.seminar.net/index.php/volume-4-issue-2-2008-previousissuesmeny-124/100-cooperative-online-education.

Better extrinsic motivation

Integrated Regulation

Identified Regulation

Introjected Regulation

External regulation

Better

see: http://www.selfdeterminationtheory.org/theory/

Step outside the course

Build learning communities and processes, not courses

Revolution

What would the world be like if we got rid of courses?

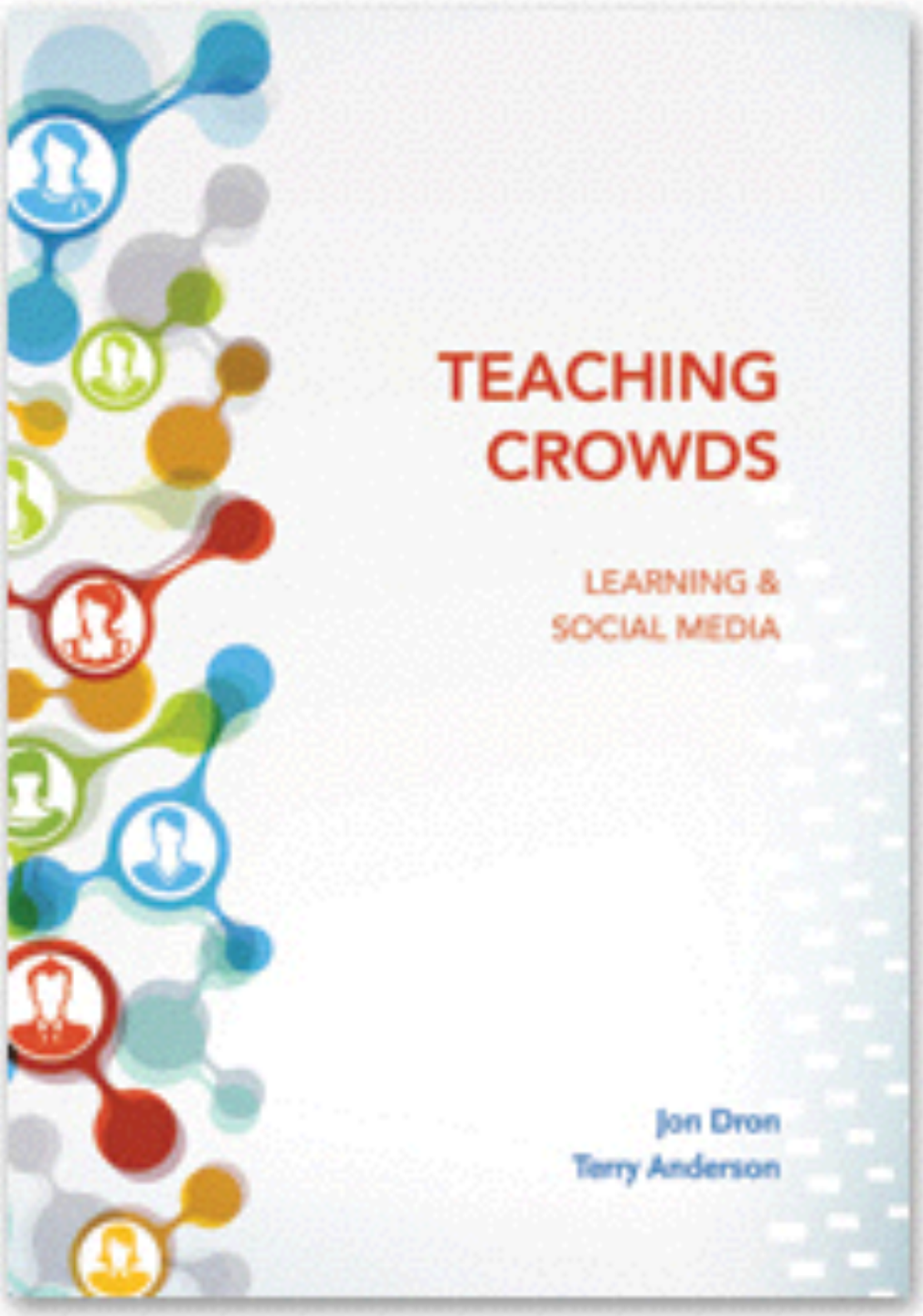
Some issues to consider

Barriers

- reliability and standards
- Administration systems
- staff expertise
- accreditation
- resourcing and efficiency
- Timetabling learning
- Rituals and habits
- Social and educational norms and expectations

Babies and bathwater

- Permission to learn
- Benefits of cohorts
- Guidance
- Scaffolding
- Simplification



Thank you!

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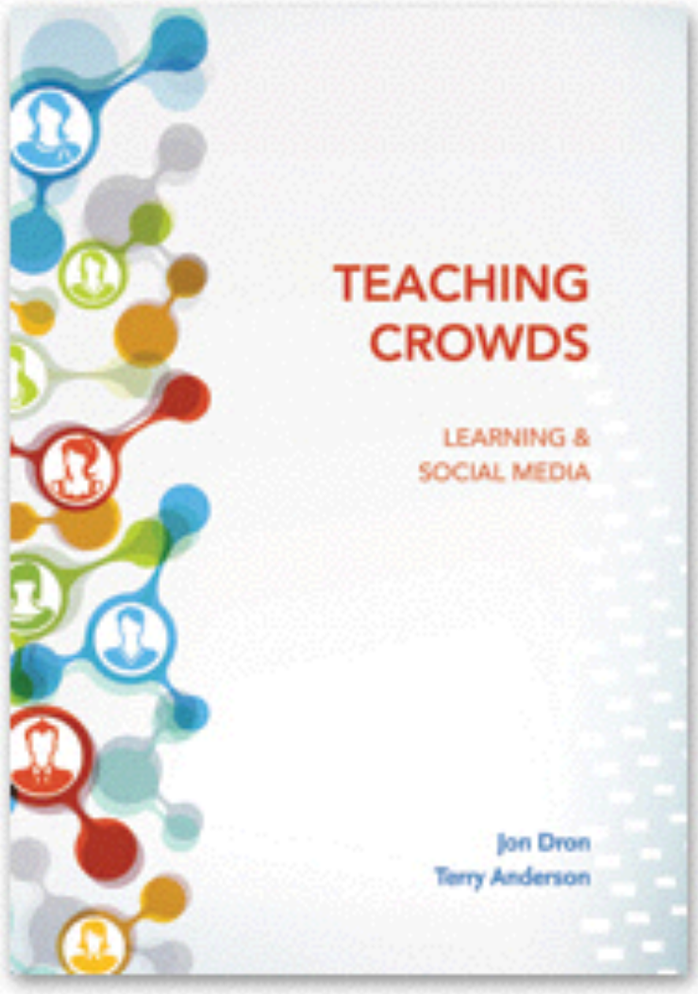
Coming September 2014…

Teaching Crowds: Learning and Social Media

Jon Dron &
Terry Anderson

AU Press

(free PDF download,
paper or e-book versions very
reasonably priced)



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http://www.amazon.com/Teaching-Crowds-Learning-Distance-Education/dp/1927356806/