The Open Academic Environment VIP team

TEAM TITLE: Open Academic Environment VIP Team

GOALS: Online learning systems like T-Square have so far tended to focus on the administrative needs of teaching large, traditional lecture courses. They tend to be siloed off from the rest of the web, they buy into an unhelpful separation between teaching and research, and they give relatively little design attention to the needs of active learners. Our project aims to turn all this on its head.

In the same way that the Clough center is more than just a building with lecture halls, we want to create an online environment that is more than just a set of course containers. We want an environment where the student can make their own connections, engage with content and people beyond the boundary of the course and institution, and shape the experience to their needs.

Our project is an open-source, multi-institutional software development project to create a collaborative platform that supports globally networked learning and scholarship. What we produce will become an international service for academic collaboration.

TECHNOLOGIES:
Front-end web development in particular, with HTML, CSS and JS frameworks.

RESEARCH ISSUES:
Social media, open teaching models, privacy theory, open educational resources, personalized learning environments, social networking in academic contexts.

TEAM ADVISORS:
Clay Fenlason (Director, Office of Educational Technology), Dr. Christina Choi (School of Industrial Design)

PROJECT PARTNERS & SPONSORS:
Office of Educational Technology, School of Industrial Design, Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (Cambridge University)

DESIRED DISCIPLINES & PREPARATION:
Industrial Design and HCI – UCD methodologies for web development, interaction design, ethnographic research and usability testing
CS and ECE – Front-end web development, HTML, CSS, JS frameworks and RESTful programming

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