Last year more than 6 million US college students enrolled in credit bearing online courses. This reflects growth in online education of nearly 300% between 2003 and 2013. Last year several new online initiatives began and millions of additional students joined the ranks of higher education online learners. This course will introduce students to online learning concepts, history, research, and theory. It will include an analysis of recent developments including the entry of Ivy League and other elite institutions providing college level online courses to millions of students for little or no tuition. Course participants will engage in discussions around access, students, faculty, learning effectiveness, and cost issues in these rapidly expanding online learning environments. Students will also critically examine a variety of perspectives suggesting an historic shift in the nature and future of higher education. Not open to students who have previously taken E Tap 683.

Instructor: Peter Shea