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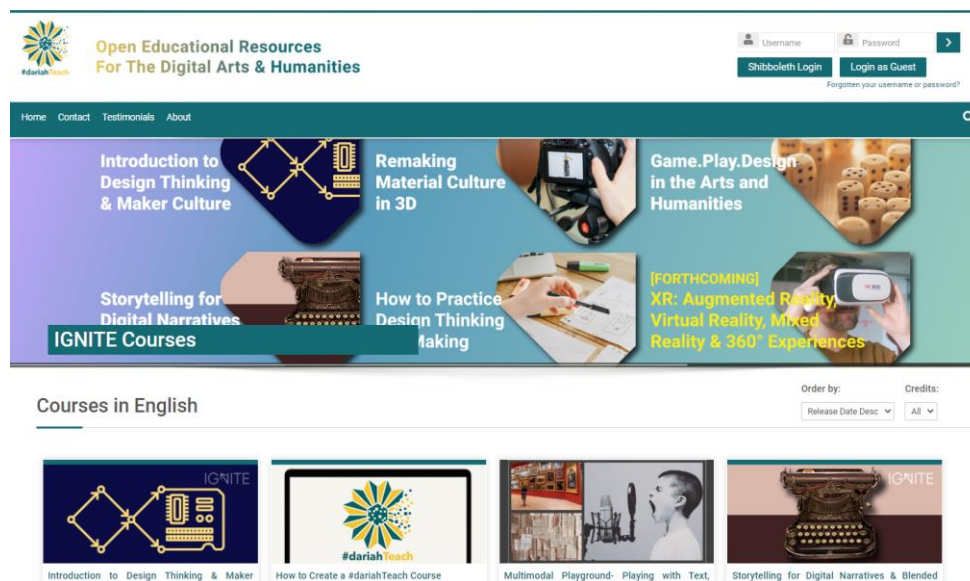
#dariahTeach

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Launched in 2015, [#dariahTeach](#) is an European based Open Education Resources (OER) platform for the digital arts and humanities. The target audience for this platform is higher education teachers, who can embed existing content or create new content for courses and learners, especially those who do not have access to formal courses or training. For European students working toward a degree, #dariahTeach is compliant with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), which enables students to accumulate credits from different universities in different countries. #dariahTeach promotes sharing and reuse, in order to develop a place for publishing and teaching material.



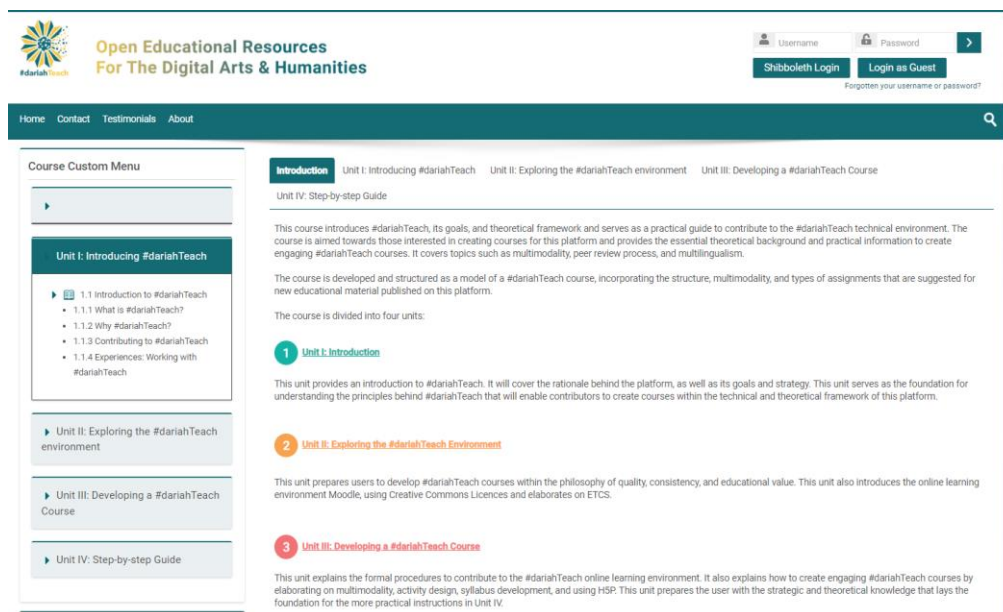
#dariahTeach homepage carousel of courses.

The homepage for #dariahTeach immediately draws the user's interest with a carousel of rotating banners highlighting courses. The user can scroll through two sections of course thumbnails available on the homepage; *Courses in English* and *Courses in Translation*. There are currently fifteen courses in

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English and six translated courses in Spanish, French, Hungarian, and Greek. While the courses are focused on the digital arts and humanities, specific courses are determined by instructor interest in course creation and use of the platform. As more instructors host their courses on #dariahTeach, more course options will be available. There is an open call for collaboration through the contact page for individuals and educators. Current course offerings cover a variety of topics from design thinking and maker culture to text encoding initiatives (TEI) and multimodal literacy. Inspired teachers can inspire students; through the creative instructional design of the modules instructors can teach familiar topics in transformative ways either through their own new courses or by reusing and remixing existing courses. Beyond those courses specifically entitled with “introduction” and the number of ECTS credits, there are no indicators of course level.

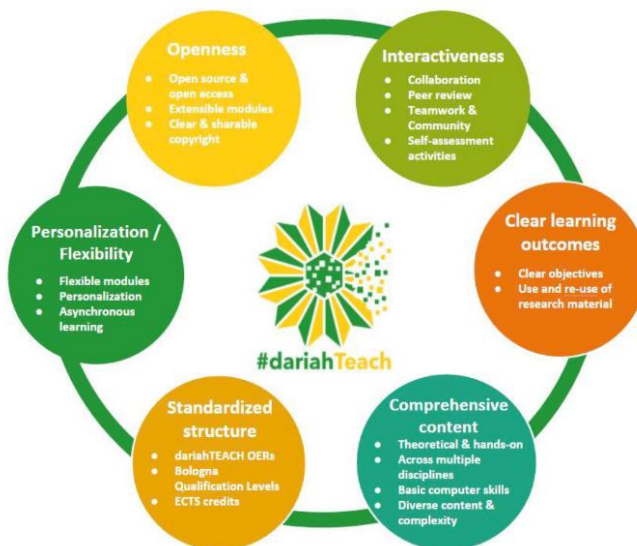
Within the course modules, ease of navigation can vary based on how the course elements are organized and designed. There are multiple pathways to navigate to the same units/sections, for example header navigation, a navigation sidebar, and a custom course menu, as well as in-text links. The flexibility of this functionality and customization of courses is a huge benefit; however, at times navigational options are overly complicated within the courses. Multiple navigation paths at times gives the sense that as a user one might be missing content. A single point of navigation would make the experience simpler for users to understand. Module elements taking the user to another location, such as a linked presentation or quiz, should open in a new window.



How to Create a #dariahTeach course module.

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For those interested in developing their own modules, #dariahTeach created the course “How to Create a #dariahTeach Course,” which walks the creators through four units detailing course theory, framework, best practices, methodology, and publication. This course is a fantastic guide and outlines how #dariahTeach conceives of the quality of the writing, presentation, and execution of the courses. #dariahTeach’s philosophy has three pillars: quality, consistency, and educational value. To ensure that courses on the platform adhere to these values, the Quality Benchmark Cycle is used, as well as a peer review process that ensures quality and common framework. Course proposals go through a rigorous cycle of iterations with the editorial team using the benchmarks for curriculum design.



#dariahTeach Benchmark cycle.

From a technological perspective #dariahTeach has done an excellent job of identifying the appropriate support platforms to encourage engaging coursework through diverse learning materials in a variety of formats. Course developers employ *Moodle*, a “free and open-source learning management system” to design courses and *H5P*, an “open-source, web-based software application” for creating, editing and sharing interactive content. The integration between H5P and Moodle allows course developers to create content in a web browser without needing any additional software. Course developers can also use other non-H5P software that meets their needs and system requirements such as [Design Method Toolkit](#). #dariahTeach effectively uses these media platforms to support a multimodal learning environment and the flexibility allows for the design to match the needs of the course.

#dariahTeach is a completely free platform requiring login for course access. Users can login as a guest without setting up an account or setting up a profile. Users opting to set up a more detailed profile can allow others to view their information promoting community within the platform, as well as accessing a Course Dashboard, allowing for additional customization of the user experience. Complete courses

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can be accessed as a guest and no specific software requirements are needed for learning participants. All content has Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license CC-BY-SA: (Attribution-ShareAlike CC BY-SA). This license allows for the remixing, alteration, and addition to the work, even for commercial purposes, with proper attribution and if the identical license is applied. It will be interesting to see if the same rigor seen in the course modules is applied to the user experience on the website as the platform continues to expand. The website's homepage is not ideally suited for scaling, since all of the courses are listed on a single page. Improving the navigation with a tab for courses and sub sections for English and translated courses would simplify the homepage, reduce scrolling, and enable scaling for additional courses in the future.

#dariahTeach is a valuable resource both in terms of its content and its digital form. With course content quality and flexibility being #dariahTeach's strengths and streamlined user experience being an area for improvement, there is great potential for this already quality platform. Continued collaboration and initiatives will help ensure that this OER platform continues to serve and benefit both students and educators. Those teaching in the digital arts and humanities or interdisciplinary fields would do well to explore the complete and expanding course list.