

EDUC. 423 - 04

Analysis of Teaching

Instructor: Dr. John McLeish

This course will provide (i) a training in interaction analysis, and (ii) an understanding of the theoretical rationale underlying various systems, especially Bales' and Flanders' systems. Graduated exercises will be provided to the point where the trainee should be able to make valid and reliable codings of group interactions, and interpret these in terms of the group dynamics of the learning sessions. The problems of discovering learning outcomes will be given detailed consideration.

The first part of the course will introduce the student to the best all purpose system of coding and analysis of classroom and other kinds of groups, namely Bales' Interaction Process Analysis. The various indices which point to different kinds of phase movements will be dealt with, illustrated and discussed. Bales' concept of three-dimensional social "space" will serve to crown this section of the course work.

The second half of the course will be devoted to systems which serve a specific purpose, being more or less directly related to classroom interactions (Flanders, Mann and/or a behavioural-learning coding system will be used as a follow up of Bales). Students' purposes in learning classroom interaction analysis would be the decisive factor in the selection of the system, or systems, to be studied. Individual work here would be possible, but an attempt would be made at a fairly comprehensive coverage of the theoretical positions and practical limitations of the available systems. The development, validation and reliability problems involved in devising a custom-made system of analysis will be indicated. The orientation of the whole course will be towards the closest integration of theory and practical activities.

Readings

Ph.D. and M.Ed. theses by R. Anderson, R. Bedecki, J.F. Martin, W. Matheson, J. Park and others will be available for consultation on specific issues. In addition, standard texts by Bales, Flanders and others will be available. A series of graduated exercises involving actual codings of behaviour of video-taped and "live" groups will be presented in the form of prepared handouts. A reading list will be made available at the first meeting of the class.

Advance Reading

N.S.S.E. Yearbook, 1976: Psychology of Teaching Methods

Bales, R.F.: Personality and Interpersonal Behavior

Flanders, H.: Analysing Teaching Behavior (1970)

Gage, N.: Handbook of Research on Teaching (Chapter 6)

McLeish, Matheson, Park: Psychology of the Learning Group