

Education 489-4 Experimental Course: Logo

Spring Semester 85-1

Instructor: David Bell

Monday 1630-2020

Location: on campus

"The computer is a rich and complex tool that is increasingly within the financial means of schools. Like any educational tool, it comes with inherent advantages and disadvantages, is more appropriate for some uses than others, is more suited to some teaching styles than others, and is neither the answer to all educational ills nor the end of all that is great and good in our educational system. Like any tool, it can be used well or poorly, be overemphasized or ignored, and it depends on the human qualities of the welder for its effectiveness. (P. Kelman in Computers and Reading Instruction).

Seymour Papert, one of the creators of Logo, is concerned that children are being programmed by computers rather than the other way around. Logo (and the Logo culture & environment) is a way of putting the child back in control of his own learning. This course will look at the two elements present in Logo, on the one hand it is a programming language and on the other, it is a way to begin thinking about thinking.

This is an in-depth immersion into the Logo environment. The course will function as a professional seminar. Class time will be divided between lecture/demonstration, hands-on computer time and class discussions. All are expected to contribute by participating fully, by sharing their experiences, ideas, readings, bugs, experimentations and frustrations. Each will have an opportunity to present her work to the class for responses and extensions.

Looking at classroom curriculum connections and the Logo teacher's role will be an ongoing theme of the class discussions. Each participant will complete several programming projects and create a classroom curriculum or in-service training unit for future use. Participants may be entirely new to Logo or experienced in using it.

Required texts:

MINDSTORMS by Seymour Papert - Basic Books, N.Y., 1980

LEARNING WITH LOGO by Daniel Watt - Byte Books,
Peterborough, NH, 1983

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