

Spring 1978

EDUCATION 423: Analysis of Teaching

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Teaching can be analyzed from a host of differing perspectives, each one of which sheds different light on the elements and interrelations of elements which comprise teaching. In this course, three distinct but inter-locking views of teaching will be comprehensively explored. One viewpoint for the analysis of teaching will be to examine the behaviors of teachers, ranging from discrete teacher acts through behavior patterns to holistic models of teaching. The objective of this kind of analysis is to describe the structural features of teaching. Another perspective taken will be a psychological view of the characteristics and intellectual processes which students use to learn from teaching. In this kind of analysis, presumed linkages between two psychological theories, cognitive processing and operant learning, and teaching behavior will be examined. Finally, the third lense through which teaching will be analyzed focuses on the question of teacher effectiveness as it has been addressed in empirical research. We will review this body of research literature, noting especially its positive findings and the major problems of doing this kind of research.

Requirements for this course are as follows: approximately 100 pages of reading per week, a minor and a major paper requiring the application of knowledge and skills from the course and three in-class tests. Readings will be drawn from three required texts plus research articles and supplemental materials on reserve in the library. Students should be prepared to spend about 10-12 hours per week on out-of-class work for this course.

Outline of Topics:

1. Overview of the course
2. Cognitive processing views of the learner
3. Operant views of the learner
4. Observation methodology and behavior pattern mapping
5. Introduction to research on teaching
6. Classroom climate
7. Management and control of instruction
8. Social systems and classroom interactions
9. Cognitive levels of classroom interactions
10. Recent major experiments on teacher effects
11. Models of teaching
12. Extensions of research on teaching
13. Synthesizing a perspective for analyses of teaching

Texts:

- Dunkin, M. J. & Biddle, B. J. The Study of Teaching  
Gentile, J. R., Frazier, T.W. & Morris, M.C. Instructional Applications of Behavior Principles  
Joyce, B. R. & Weil, M. Models of Teaching