Strategy: Significant Learning Taxonomy

This model from Fink can help instructors better understand their course and its position within their discipline, more effectively communicating its worth and application to students.

Origin


Application

Fink’s model asks instructors to investigate the following dimensions of significant learning:

- **Foundational Knowledge**: Content and basic application
- **Application**: Complex application skills
- **Integration**: How to connect one kind of knowledge with other kinds of knowledge
- **Human Dimension**: Understanding themselves and how to interact with others vis-à-vis a particular kind of knowledge
- **Caring**: The values and interests that can be associated with new kinds of knowledge
- **Learning how to learn**: How to keep on learning about a subject after the course is over

*Significant Learning Taxonomy, D. Fink (2011)*

Reflection

- How can the significant learning taxonomy enhance your teaching?
- What foundational knowledge do students develop in your course?

- What application skills do students develop in your course?

- How do students connect knowledge from your course with other knowledge?

- How do students develop a better understanding of themselves and their connection to others through the knowledge gained in your course?

- What does knowledge in your course help students value or encourage them to take interest in?

- How can students continue learning outside of your course?