**EDUCATN 600: Essential Skills in Teaching and Learning (I)**

**Post-Workshop Reflection**

Please complete these questions within a week of attending the workshop (sooner is better!). Keep in mind that these reflections will assist you in writing your End of Course Reflective Analysis, so the more detail you provide, the more useful you may find them as you complete the final assignment. In total, your reflection should be approximately 350-500 words. Each reflection will be read by the course instructor and then passed on to the workshop facilitator.

**Your Name:** Curtis D'Alves

**Workshop Title:** Adult Learning Theories

**Please describe one thing you learned in this workshop and explain how it changed your understanding of the subject.**

I learned the distinction between Pedagogy, Andragogy and Heutagogy, and that Pedagogy is colloquially used as a catch-all term for all of these. This provided me with a topology of what a previously viewed as simply different pedagogical methods and reinforced my understanding of these methods. For example, I have previously researched experiential learning and attempted to employ it in my teaching. I now see experiential learning in a new perspective that emphasizes the subject the method is being used on and how the method may be more emphatic for certain subjects and not others. I have also never considered using "choose your own adventure" assessment.

**Explain how you might apply what you learned to your current or future teaching using a specific example. What impact do you think this will have on student learning?**

When employing methods like experiential learning I'll now consider the learning capabilities (be they adults or in the "emerging adulthood" stage) and how I might tailer the method to better suit those capabilities. I'll also consider implementing a "choose your own adventure" assessment alongside as appropriate. I believe this will further engage my students and increase the "active learning" in my course content.

**Do you have any suggestions about how the workshop might be improved? If you were to run the workshop, what might you do differently?**

At the beginning of the workshop three questions where asked. I put a lot of thought in these questions and come up with the following answers

* What is learning?
  + "Learning" is a cluster concept, it defies a formal definition that can encompass all colloquial uses of the word across all societies/cultures. One can only list attributes that are commonly used to judge possible inclusion in the set of "learning", some examples of these attributes include:
    - A process under which one acquires a greater "understanding" of a concept
    - A process under which one acquires new "knowledge"
    - A process under which one "fine tunes" their "response" to given stimuli
* What defines an adult learner?
  + An "adult" is a socially constructed category correlated to empirical observations such as age and psychological concepts such as "maturity". Societies commonly use the category of adult to discern certain capabilities of a subject with the goal of achieving a social utility (such as whether or not we should allow an individual to attempt to drive). An "adult learner" is someone who a given society would categorize as an "adult" that is undergoing "learning" as defined above.
* How do you teach an adult learner?
  + When an educator attempts to teach a learner they enter into a social contract that has each participant assume certain roles and responsibilities. Since someone categorized as an "adult" has been discerned to have a certain level of capabilities as mentioned above it is reasonable to set a different standard of responsibilities than a non-"adult". Exactly what standard of responsibilities depends on the known "best practices" for education in that society since education has empirically observable outcomes and hence can have its methodologies scientifically evaluated for effectiveness.

At the end of the workshop we were asked to reflect and redo these questions. Although I appreciate that this was Heutagogy approach, I would still have preferred to have feedback on these questions from someone with more thorough knowledge in the field. I feel like submitting answers to these questions would have been more productive than filling out this generic reflection sheet.

**What questions do you still have about the subject? What would you like to know more about?**

The workshop mentioned very little about the empirical evidence supporting the effectiveness of methodologies used between Pedagogy/Andragogy/Heutagogy, or the validity of the critiques addressed. Although I respect critical theories and their usefulness, I feel critiques should still be supported by sociological experiments when its reasonable to do so.

**Are there any other thoughts you would like to share about your experience in this workshop?**

I'm thankful to the professors who developed this workshop, it was very well put together and was clearly designed by highly knowledgeable experts in the field.