

CTLT's Spring Semester 2006 Teaching Tip for March 15

During Spring Break at the Ohio Digital Commons for Education Conference, one of the keynote speakers, Dr. John Seely Brown, stated that today students need to “learn to be,” and it is not good enough for students to just “learn about.” A second keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Taylor, profiled today’s postmodern college student (more information about this speaker in another teaching tip). Dr. Taylor says that postmodern pedagogy is “the application of learning centered and active learning philosophies and techniques.” He stressed that “shoveling factoids” is not an effective teaching strategy for today’s learners.

Both speakers’ content endorsed the Center’s focus this semester, Communicating with Learners, and we found two Web sites that we hope will give you some good resources about teaching your learners “to be,” by enriching your course design and activities. These comprehensive online resources are definite assets, and we encourage you to put them on your favorites list.

First an ebook, *Learning, Teaching, & Technology*, Michael Orey, editor

<http://www.coe.uga.edu/epltt/index.htm>

This ebook is housed at the University of Georgia’s College of Education. Because it has a Creative Commons License, it is a valuable tool for you, and perhaps your students, to use and share. There are two main sections, “Learning and Cognitive Theories” and “Instructional Theories and Models.” The topics range from social constructivism to adult learning to learner motivation.

Our second source is a well-maintained Web site with an abundance of links for instructional design models.

<http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~mryder/itc/idmodels.html>

Martin Ryder, a development engineer for Sun Microsystems and an adjunct faculty member in information design and learning technologies, maintains this comprehensive site of instructional design and educational theory links. He describes himself “as a technologist by trade, somewhat of a luddite by conviction, a teacher, and a learner.”

We hope that you can use these sites as effective resources for your teaching, and please, share them with your learners.