PIDP 3210

Assignment #5 – Journal

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I have thought about many different ways to do this journal, from daily observations, reviewing the course material and commenting on my thoughts. I thought about following the objective, reflective, interpretive, decisional journal format. In the end I thought it would be best if I just wrote about my experiences in the class and reflect on the different material we covered, as I found the whole course interesting yet confusing at times, and could relate it to my own education experiences.

PIPD 3210 was a very interesting course. I was expecting a different class composition, being that I was there for a technical school position I was expecting mostly trades people. It was interesting to see the wide range of people in the course.

The first day I was a bit worried about the material, I was very confused as to what the course was all about, and did not understand where it was going. The first night I went home a read some of the material and was no better off than I was in the afternoon.

The 2nd day was a bit of a break through, the DACOM chart was so easy to understand and was a very effective way to plan out a course. I could see how it could be very useful in planning courses and getting a solid plan and direction as to where a course is going.

The next few days were a mixture of confusion and understanding. I think it’s because my back ground is science and technology and that all the learning I have done has been Competency Based Education. I had never thought of the theories behind the idea of teaching, to me it seemed very intuitive, explain a equation or science topic and have a test on it. It was very interesting in seeing the different theories behind learning.

Blooms Taxonomy was very interesting. I found it difficult to classify my objectives in the DACUM chart clearly. I found that many of my objectives covered more than one type of outcome.

The Needs Assessment Process seemed very logical and practical. I was surprised that things that seemed very obvious to me were so detailed in theory. It seems intuitive that one must assess the needs for a course and the value of that course.

The one thing that I was surprised about was the different types of objectives: Learning, Instructional, Performance, Behavioral, Terminal, Confluent, and Expressive. The objectives all make sense; I was just surprised that learning can be broken down to so many different levels of learning outcomes.

Looking back on all the schooling I have done, 3 years of engineering at Queens University transferred to a BSc in Aeronautics , followed by BCIT trades schooling in Aviation, explains a lot of my perspective on this course.

In University the hardest courses for me were arts electives which were required in engineering, I guess to make us better rounded. Courses like History, Philosophy, Art History etc… applying what I have learned in PIDP 3210 I can see that these course were either Cognitive or Affective Learning. Both of these outcomes generally don’t have so much of a right or wrong answer, but rather a change in thinking, behaviour or values. The engineering courses were all Psychomotor outcomes, which are very straight forward, learn a formula, apply it to a problem and the answer is either right or wrong.

The point being is that after taking so many psychomotor courses it was interesting to learn that the course I had trouble with were a totally different form of learning and using the same approach to learn them was not the correct approach.

I enjoyed this course, I think the amount of material is greater than a week long course, there is a lot there to fully understand. The approach used in teaching this course was effective, having the students sitting next to each other allowed us to interact with each other, this really helped the understanding of the topics and discussion could take place to clarify and issues

I am looking forward to the rest of the PIPD program and hope that it will lead to me being a better teacher – If I can get the BCIT teaching job that is..:)