

Name _____

EDUC 215 – Spring '09

Question 2 - Applying the framework for the design of learning environments:

- a. The following is a description (quoted from Reading 7), based a study on the teaching of history, of one history teacher's approach to teaching. Read the description carefully and then use any relevant aspect of the framework referred to in Question 1 to explain what is good about this teacher's approach.

“Leinhardt and Greeno (1991, 1994) spent 2 years studying a highly accomplished teacher [Ms. Sterling] of advanced placement history in an urban high school in Pittsburgh... In the first week of the semester, Sterling thrust her students into the kinds of issues that one might find in a graduate seminar: “What is history?” “How do we know the past?” “What is the difference between someone who sits down to ‘write history’ and the artifacts that are produced as part of ordinary experience?” The goal of this extended exercise is to help students understand history as an *evidentiary* form of knowledge, not as clusters of fixed names and dates.

- b. Based on your reading about effective teaching environments describe one teaching approach that would very clearly be evaluated positively from a learner-centered perspective. [Note: *Your answer will be considered better if you choose from among the examples you have read about than to make up your own.*]

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Short Essay Question:

Question 3 – Integrating aspects of the framework:

It is all very well to design learning environments taking the four different perspectives (knowledge, learner, assessment and community) into account. However, it is important that these four perspectives are aligned. Explain.

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EDUCATION 215
Final Exam - Part 2 (Open Book)

*You can use any books, notes or readings you have during this part of the exam but you may not share any of these with classmates. Answer **any ONE of the following two** questions in a **well organized essay** of about 3-4 booklet pages:*

Question 1

A common pattern of verbal interaction in classrooms at many levels of education (from elementary school to university) is what is referred to as the Initiation-Response-Feedback (IRF) pattern. In this type of verbal interaction the teacher poses a question to the class, receives a brief response from a student, and provides feedback on the adequacy of the response. Write an essay that provides an extended critique of this style teaching. Make sure to make use of relevant theories of learning and research findings to support your critique.

OR,

Question 2

Many educational programs incorporate some kind of internship or practical training as part of the requirements for the program. Someone studying finance might spend a summer working at a bank, an architecture student may work at a design firm, a physics student might work in a research lab and an English literature student might work at a newspaper helping with the editing of the culture page.

Use theories of learning and research findings you have encountered in this course to justify the inclusion of a practical training component in the requirements for a university degree.