

07.7.2024

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Title

Engager and avoider behaviour in types of activities performed by out-class learning groups / Louisa Yan ; David Kember

Publication year

2004

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education. - 48 (2004) 4, S. 419 - 438

Inventory number

18417

Keywords

Studentenschaft ; Studienverhalten ; Lehre

Abstract

This study examines the out-of-class learning activities undertaken, at the students' volition, by groups of students. Data were gathered through 57 individual and 15 focus group interviews with university students in Hong Kong. Group activities reported included: copying, sharing material, consulting peers, consulting teachers, studying and working together, revising together before examinations, discussing, collaborating across years, forming study groups and participating in extracurricular activities. Activities could be placed on a spectrum from low to high task-involvement. Some activities, such as copying, occurred at only one end of the spectrum. Most occurred in somewhat different forms across the spectrum. It was possible to categorise these activities into two categories labelled avoider and engager behaviour. Avoider behaviour was displayed by those who collaborated to minimise the time individual members spent on assigned tasks. Engager behaviour was characterised by seeking to reach a communal understanding of course content. Adoption of either behaviour was influenced by the teaching and learning environment. (HRK / Abstract übernommen),

07.7.2024

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