The Class Room

- The environment in which a student learns is relevant to the effectiveness of instruction.
- Physical aspects of a room can have a large positive or negative impact on a student's ability to engage with course material, other students, and the instructor.

Framework of Classroom Environment

- Relationship between classroom environment, achievement goals, and reflective thinking practices
- Factors of classroom environment include:
  - Personalization factor
  - Direct interaction with the instructor
  - Involvement of students and their overall satisfaction
  - Task organization: the clearness of classroom objectives
- Also tested were factors that influence a student forming and completing achievement goals.

Avoidance Strategies

- This study aimed to answer the question of why students in higher level learning environments purposefully avoid seeking help in challenging courses.
- Searches for the relationship between instructor accessibility, perceived classroom environment, and the usage of avoidance strategies.
- The major hypothesis for use of avoidance strategies is preservation of self-worth.
  - It is thought that students who possess doubt in their abilities and competencies will use strategies to divert attention from themselves.
  - Although avoidance strategies may result in short term escape from judgement, poor academic performance most times will follow.

Student Motivation to Learn

- This study looks at the college student and the derivation of their desire to learn course material.
- The study followed students in an introductory psychology course.
- There are two types of goals that students created for themselves:
  - Mastery goals
  - Performance goals
- Goal geared towards earning a good grade in the course.

Higher Learning

- The effectiveness of the traditional lectures setting has come into question.
- Praise of pedagogical learning courses.
- Use of new technology such as clicker question, online quizzing & testing and video lectures.
- Just at Penn State facilities such as Pollock Testing Center and growth of online courses and world campus.
- With these changes higher learning has become a dynamic structure. How should classroom environment change?

Classroom Layout

- The physical arrangement of a classroom can affect student performance and learning.
- Are large lecture halls turning the classroom experience into a presentation and not an interactive experience?
- Are students willing to engage in smaller classroom settings?
- What affects does student distance from the instructor have on academic performance?

Teacher-Student Interaction

- Student-teacher interaction affects the classroom environment.
- Resources such as office hours can greatly affect a student’s performance and motivation in a class.
- Utilization of resources such as office hours is significantly dependent on comfort of student with an instructor.
- Improving a student-instructor interactions can promote a more collaborative culture within a course.
- How can student improve student teacher interactions?
- How can student improve student teacher interactions?

Conceptual Model

- The diagram illustrates the interaction between various factors affecting student performance and motivation.
- It includes elements such as instructor behavior, student engagement, and environmental factors.

Results

- The results indicated a strong correlation between a student’s perception of instructor approachability and usage of avoidance strategies.
- Students were more willing to seek help when needed if they believed that the instructor would be understanding of their follies.
- It can be inferred that a useful tactic for instructors in today’s classroom is to make it obvious that they are accepting of failure as long as the desire to learn is obvious.
- Based on the results of this study, mastery of the course material will be a direct result of a classroom environment that encourages seeking of help.
- Professor Van Hook, a Penn State physics instructor, regularly invites students to office hours which is a great example of this strategy.

References

- http://www.investigacion-psicopedagogica.org_revista/articulos/16/english/Art_16_269.pdf