

Learning how to learn

Adapted from Prof. Janet Rankin and Prof. Sandra McGuire's seminars on active learning

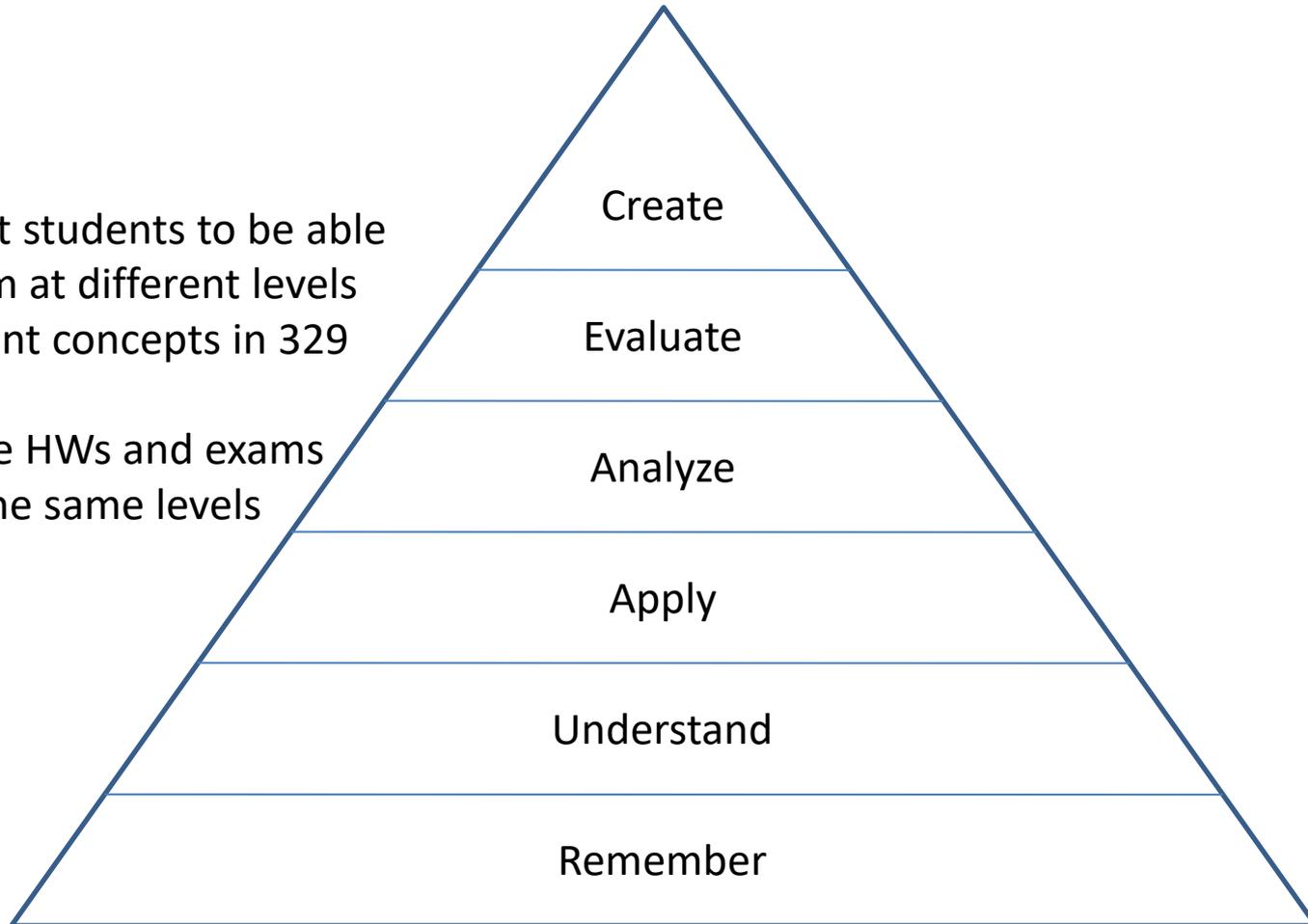
www.cas.lsu.edu

<http://web.mit.edu/tll/about-tll/rankin.html>

Bloom's Taxonomy

We expect students to be able to perform at different levels for different concepts in 329

Design the HWs and exams to be at the same levels



Time Management

- Successful full time students spend 50-55 hrs/wk on academics. For every hour of class, you should aim for 3hrs/wk of study/HW (e.g. 9hrs for 329)
- Often students cram the night before an exam or even a few days before – just in time studying
 - More effective if you spread out the effort
 - Instead, try to spend 4 hrs/wk doing HWs, 2 hrs/wk reading, and 3 hrs/wk doing “intense studying”
- Treat HWs like practice exams
 - Work independently, time yourself, do the problems using your note cards
 - Re-do the HWs from scratch along with old exams one week before the exam

The Study Cycle

Phase I: preview material before class – come to class knowing what to expect, big picture and have 1-2 questions ready

Phase II: Go to class – listen, take notes, actively participate

Phase III: Review and process class notes ASAP after class – how many people have seen Star Wars Episode 4 more than once? Were there details you noticed that weren't noticed the first time

Phase IV: Implement intense study sessions

Repeat the cycle

Intense Study Sessions

- Set aside 1hr or so blocks to study without distraction:
 - 2-3 mins of setting goals for the session
 - 20-50 mins of studying with focus and action (e.g. writing flash cards for the exams every week, doing practice problems, teaching others the key concepts of a chapter – as opposed to passive studying = reading)
 - 5-10 min break
 - 5-10 min to review what you've studied
- Then repeat this (~3hrs/wk total)
- Sometimes you may have to do this for just 15-30 minutes between class – know when you are most ready to remember – for me this is 9A-3P since I'm most alert whereas for doing problem sets, I'm better for 9P-3A (night owl)

Prepare as if you're going to teach

- How does your study preparation differ if I told you to study chapters 4-6 because:

(a) there's a test on it Monday

versus

(b) you're going to teach the class on Monday

See if you can borrow/use a dry erase board and practice teaching parts of 329 to your study group