

# FROM CHAOS TO PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

LIVED EXPERIENCES OF **UN-GRADED** STUDENTS



Katherine Greenberg, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Brian Sohn, Carson Newman University  
Lauren Moret, Independent Researcher



# ONLINE COURSE IN AN EDPSYCH MASTER'S PROGRAM LARGE SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Content: teaching nontraditional and underachieving learners

- Primacy of perception
- Being-in-the-world
- Launch students into world of course content
- Personal experience as lens into content
- Student autonomy
- No Grading



# Growing Trend



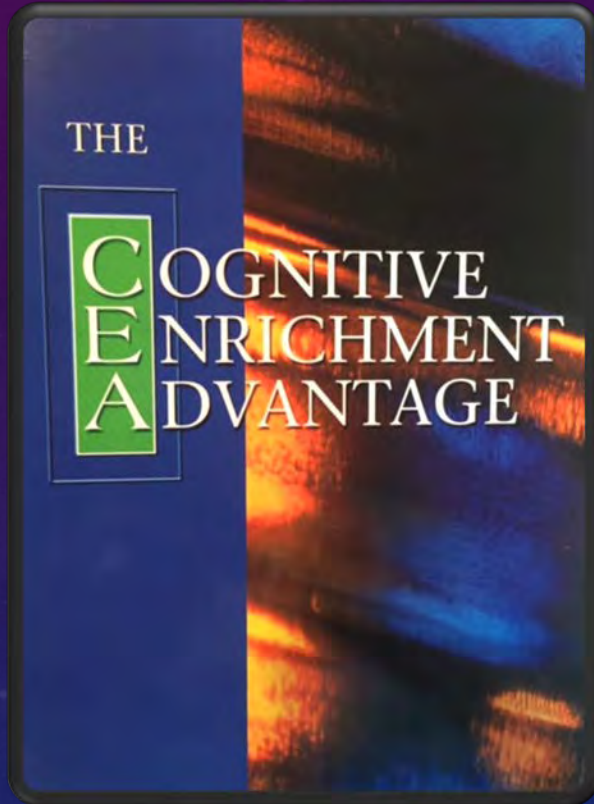
## Grades Can Hinder Learning: What Should Professors Use Instead?

Supiano, Becky (July 19, 2019). *The Chronical of Higher Education*

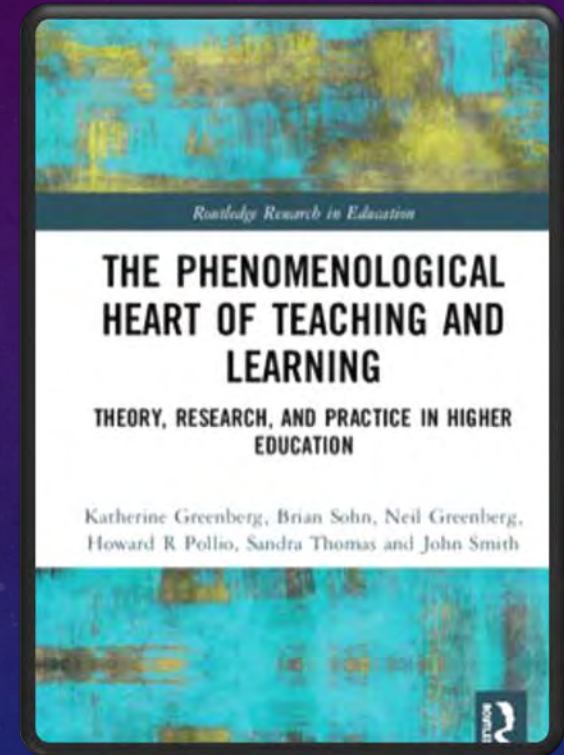
[https://www-chronicle-com.proxy.lib.utk.edu/interactives/20190719\\_ungrading#article](https://www-chronicle-com.proxy.lib.utk.edu/interactives/20190719_ungrading#article)



# PRIMARY COURSE INFLUENCES



Katherine H. Greenberg (2005)



K.H. Greenberg, B. Sohn, et al. (2019)











# RESEARCH METHODS

- Phenomenological Analysis (Sohn et al., 2017)
- *In vivo* coding of participant post-course reflections (posted online)
- Independent coding followed by research team meetings
- Brought transcripts to interpretive research group (TPRG) for rigor, transparency







# YOUR ROLE



1. In small groups of 2-4, read aloud from the transcripts provided
2. Discuss what stands out for you
3. Write 3 words in large print on poster paper that summarize the transcript/s
4. Place poster on wall



# FINDINGS

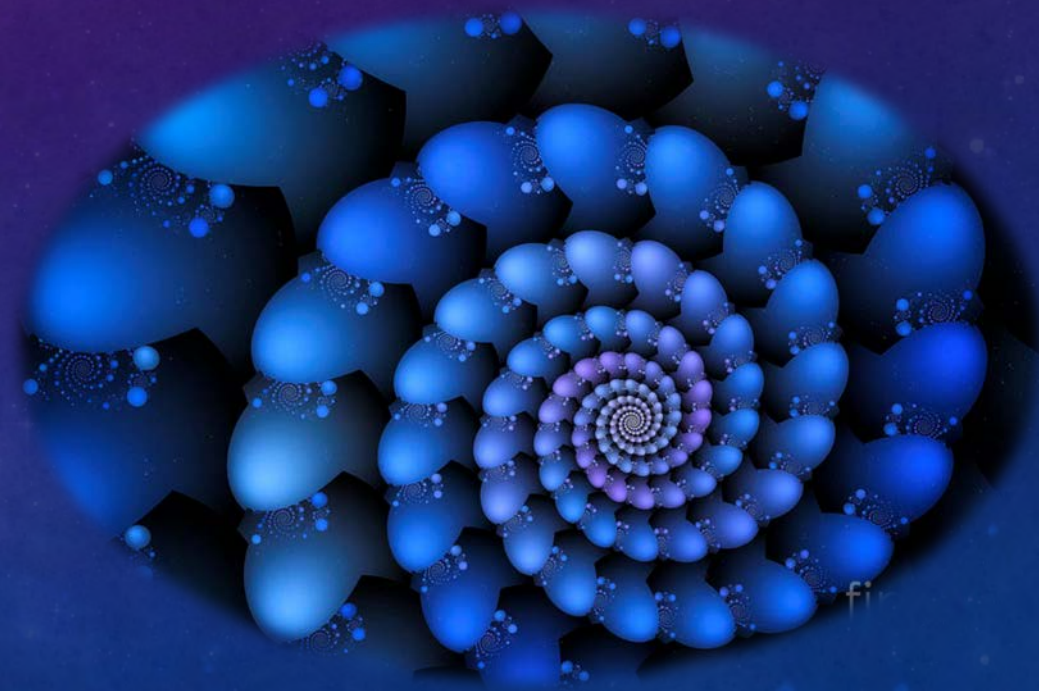
## Difference







Theme #1: *In the beginning/As time went on*





## Subtheme #1.1: *Feeling Adrift*





## SUBTHEME 1.2: *THE VEIL LIFTED*





## THEME #2: *UNTETHERED*







## SUBTHEME #2.1: *AMAZING VULNERABILITY*







## SUBTHEME #2.2 *TRUSTING THE PROCESS*





# THEME #3: *WONDERFUL CLASSMATES*







## SUBTHEME #4: *FAR BEYOND A TEST OR QUIZ*

- Professional & personal life application
- Reflections on being a learner
- Reflections on a different way to teach and to learn





# REFLECTIONS ON TEACHING

In 3 minutes:

1. Reflect and record on small post-its:

- Questions
- Implications
- Challenges
- Ways you might move towards untethering your students

2. Stick to your groups' poster, feel free to take pictures for future reference





Kathy: [khgreen@utk.edu](mailto:khgreen@utk.edu)

Brian: [BSohn@cn.edu](mailto:BSohn@cn.edu)

Lauren: [moretart@gmail.com](mailto:moretart@gmail.com)

<https://phenomenology.utk.edu>