Classic Review


Reviewed by Denise Chalmers, Winthrop Professor/Director Centre for Advancement of Teaching and Learning, University of Western Australia.

The Edition 4 of this excellent book demonstrates why all editions of this book have remained on the 'must be read' list of all academics serious about the quality of their teaching, and should be on the 'must be read' list of all leaders in academic institutions. What I particularly like about this book originally by Biggs, and now with Tang, is the qualitative changes evident in each edition. While the essential information remains, it is never left unchanged and un-interrogated. Each edition becomes richer with new experiences, and new insights that are shared with the reader. Over time, each edition has moved from a primary focus on the individual teacher in the classroom, to the teacher working in a disciplinary community and in an institutional context. The examples illustrate the principles and the practicalities, all situated within a constructive alignment framework. This book, possibly more than any other that I know, demonstrates the way a book with subsequent editions should be written. I have kept each edition and delve into each for different insights.