Concepts addressed:
Theoretical foundations about how learning occurs: How students construct knowledge, acquire skills, and develop habits of mind

The three Great Controversies Concerning ...
1. Nature vs. Nurture
   a. Is development influenced more by ... nature (inherited traits, capacities/limitations, blood)?
   b. Is development influenced more by ... nurture (environmental factors such as parents, home environment, culture)?
2. Continuity vs. Stages
   a. Is development influenced more by ... Continuity (a gradual and continual growth process)?
   b. Is development influenced more by ... Stages (distinct categories or levels of growth)?
3. Deviant vs. Different
   a. Is behavior that is non-mainstream ... deviant (bad)?
   b. Is behavior that is non-mainstream ... different (an alternative way or path)?

- Psychoanalytic Theory

The leader was Sigmund Freud, M.D. (1856-1939)

Development occurs in a series of stages

- The early years are very formative in personality development.
- Unconscious motives affect behavior.

Erik Erikson studied with Freud's in Vienna
Erikson's theory is more social (psychosocial not psychosexual), and goes throughout all life.
His theory focuses on the normal healthy personality. He studied the Oglala Sioux tribe in South Dakota.

- Behavioral Theories

  - Some call it "THE Learning Theory" for it has a clear definition of what learning is; "A change in a behavior that results from experience."
  - People can be taught to be (behave) like a gentleman, thief, teacher, caring person, etc.
  - Behaviorism focuses on the sequences and processes prior to the experience, before a new behavior is learned.
  - Behaviorism believes strongly that rewards are more motivating than punishment!

- Two important ways to change behaviors
a. Classical Conditioning (respondent conditioning)
b. Operant Conditioning (positive reinforcement)
   • Skinner said a particular behavior gets a "particular response" (good or bad),
     and people repeat pleasurable consequences.
   • Watson, Pavlov, Guthrie, Thorndike, Skinner, Hull, Dr. Laura, Covey

• Behavioral Theory
  a. task analysis, ways to gain student attention, motivation, modeling, practice then
     demonstrate new skills, providing feedback and reinforcement to students,
     programmed instruction, importance of classroom environment, and mastery
     learning.
  b. Punishment- using unpleasant consequences to weaken a behavior.
  c. All roles are learned (nurtured)

Burrhus Frederic (B.F.) Skinner

B.F.’s definition of learning: "Learning is a stable change in behavior that comes as a result of
practice. "

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