



The SoTL for Entrepreneurship

SoTL in Progress Speaker's Series
November 24, 2008
Dr. Alex Bruton

Introduction
Stepping back
Our process
SoTLE
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Introduction

- Thanks
- Me
- Why am I giving this talk?
- This "SoTL thing"

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This "SoTL" thing

- SoTL inquiries primarily seek "to understand and improve student learning in specific curricular contexts."

Gale, 2008

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This "SoTL" thing

- "Basic to understanding of the scholarship of teaching is that the focus is always on the student – not the professor, not even the discipline... The professor ... is [only] the vehicle to student understanding."

Atkinson, 2001

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This "SoTL" thing

- "The 'northern star' of SoTL inquiry is the enablement of learning. This should not be seen as a narrow prescription, but rather an overarching intention that guides thinking and practice."

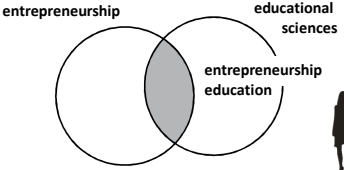
O'Brien, 2008

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Stepping back

- Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship education
- Our starting point



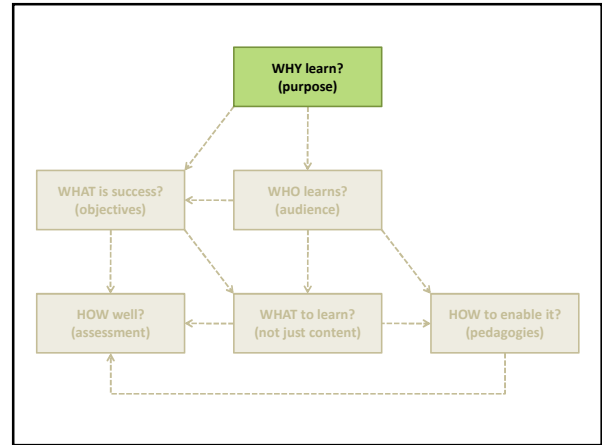
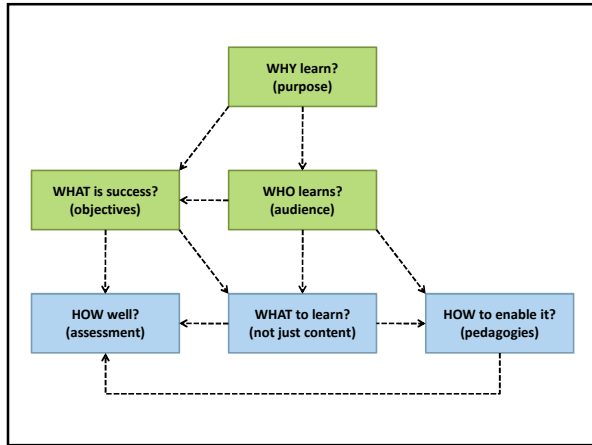
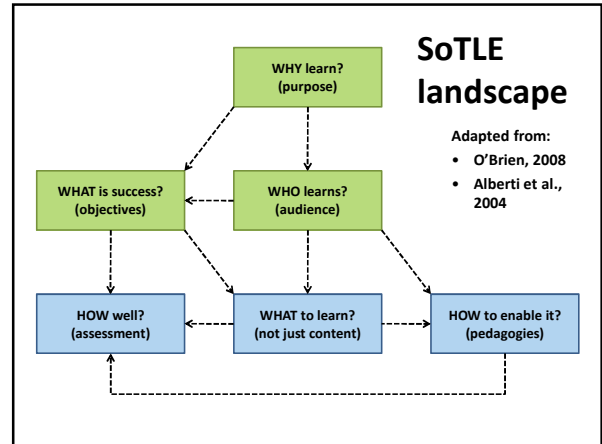
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Our process and framework (so far)

- Let's take a walk around the SoTL landscape ...



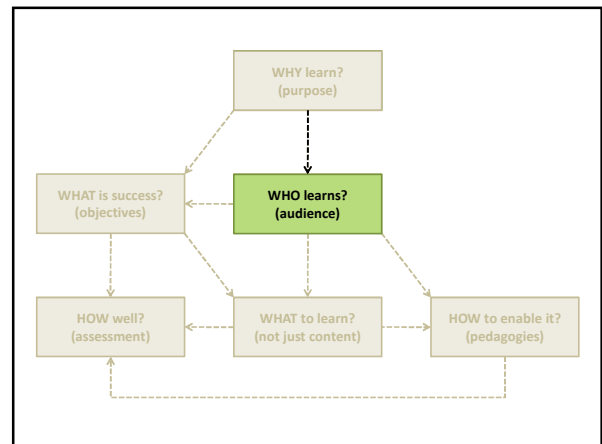
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WHY learn it?

- Economy (jobs)
- School and institutional objectives
- Society (citizenship)


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WHO are our students? (and how do they learn?)

- What is the ideal segmentation base?
- Where are those students found?

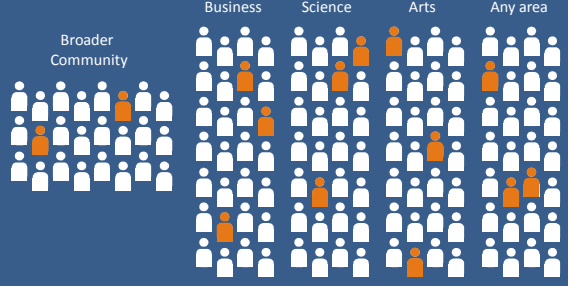
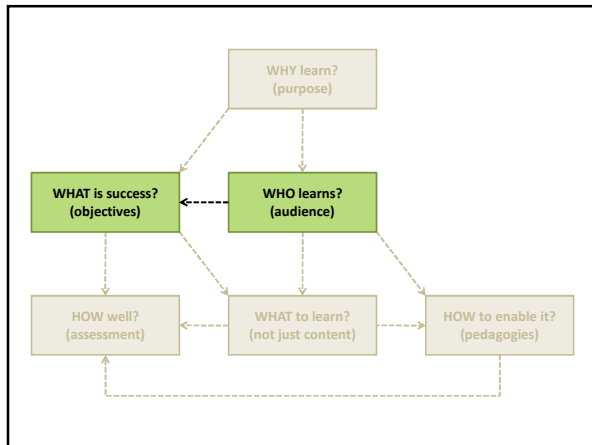
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WHO are our students?

Business Science Arts Any area


Broader Community

WHAT is success? (assessment)

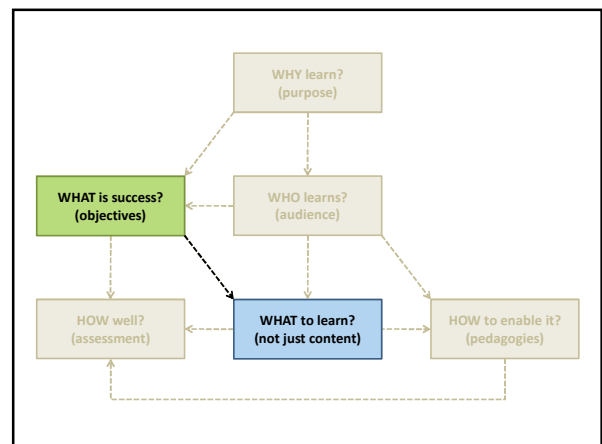
- Not a trivial task
- Arrived at four curriculum outcome threads

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Curriculum outcome threads


- entrepreneurial toolset
- network, team and communication
- personal mindset and brand
- knowledge creation capacity



WHAT will they learn? (not just content)

- Fundamentals
 - Ways of thinking and practice
 - Threshold concepts
 - Troublesome knowledge


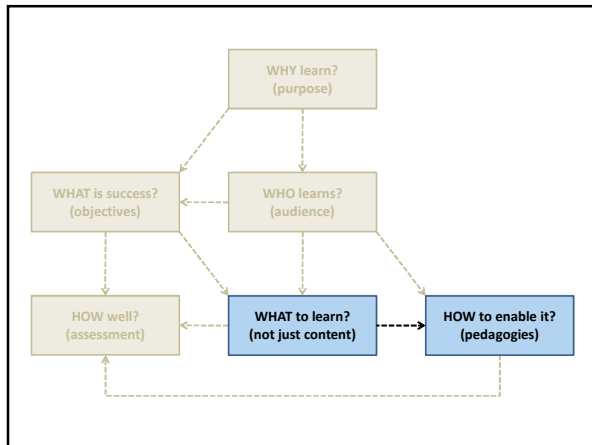
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WHAT will they learn? (not just content)

- Key constructs
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Innovation
 - Creativity


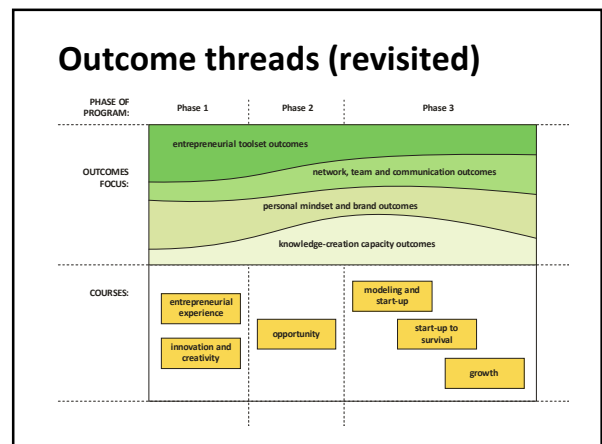
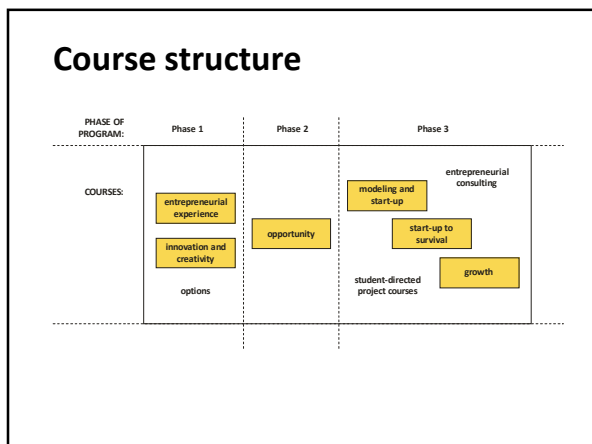
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HOW can we enable learning? (pedagogies)

- Course structure
- The offering(s)
 - Concentration
 - Minor


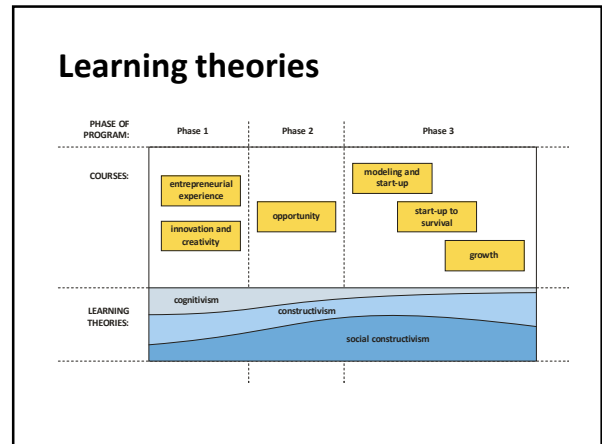
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HOW can we enable learning? (pedagogies)

- Learning theories (as distinct from answering the pedagogy question)


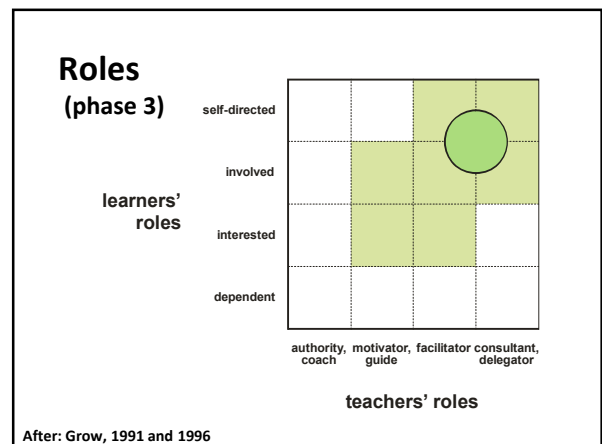
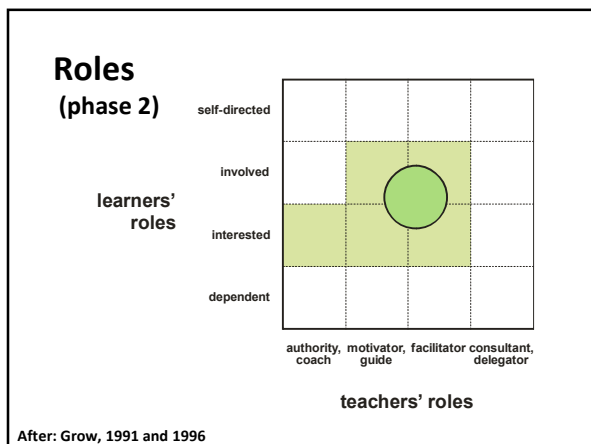
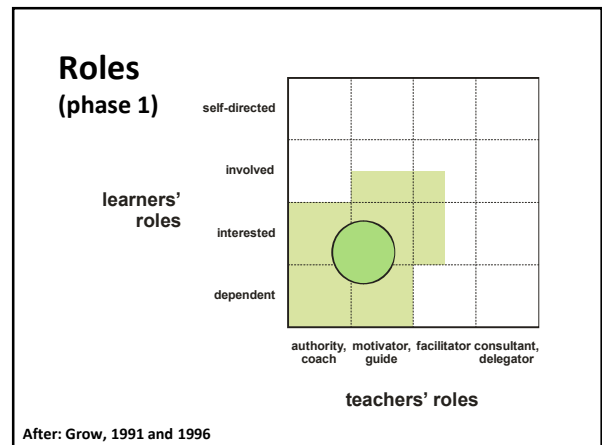
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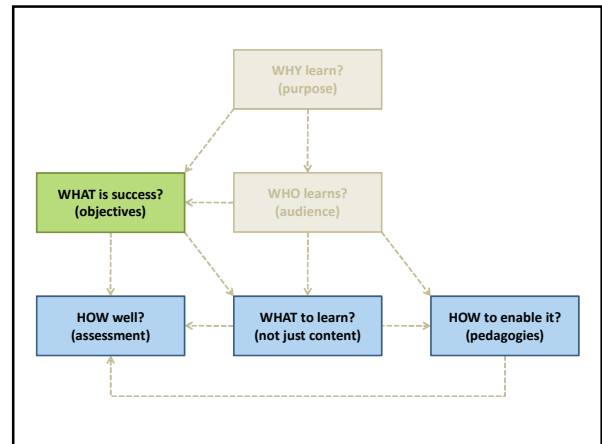
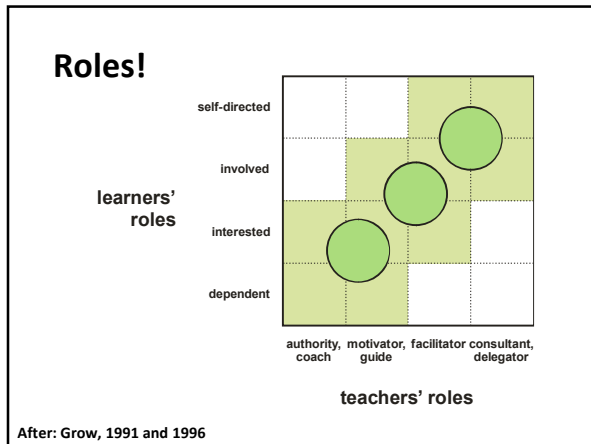



HOW can we enable learning? (pedagogies)

- Roles
 - Learners
 - Teachers

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Down to the course level

- Course level:
 - Objectives
 - Assessment
 - Content *

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Down to the topic level

- Topic level:
 - Objectives
 - Assessment
 - Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

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The designer's hat and constructive alignment

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Examples


- The entire curriculum:
 - [shex.org/wiki/Course: Entrepreneurship at Bissett](http://shex.org/wiki/Course:Entrepreneurship_at_Bissett)
- A course:
 - [shex.org/wiki/Course: The Entrepreneurial Experience](http://shex.org/wiki/Course:The_Entrepreneurial_Experience)
- A topic:
 - [shex.org/wiki/Topic: Vision and Mission](http://shex.org/wiki/Topic:Vision_and_Mission)

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Next steps

- Consultations
- Course and topic-level development
- Assessment methodology
- Deliver!
- Assess


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SoTLE?

- So what is SoTLE?
- How does it fit in?
- What does it feel like?
- What are its outcomes?


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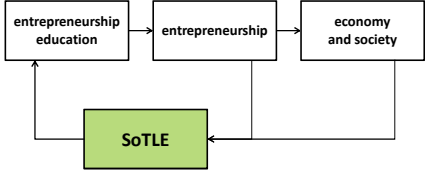
What is SoTLE?

An inquiry-driven lens through which we work together to understand, improve and enable student learning for entrepreneurship so that Mount Royal students are best equipped to innovate in today's economy and society.

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How does SoTLE fit in?




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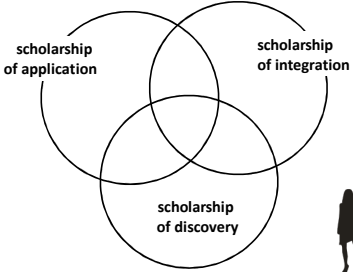
What does SoTLE feel like?




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What does SoTLE feel like?



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After: Boyer, 1990 and Atkinson, 2001

What are its outcomes?

e.g. programs, curricula, web pages, textbooks, practice evaluations, teaching materials, theories, instructional techniques, student evaluation tools, media products, software, course materials, simulations, role playing exercises, grants, conference proceedings, peer-reviewed contributions ...

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Concluding thoughts

- Success is a matter of focus
 - Not on faculty
 - Not even on entrepreneurship
- Focus is on enabling students' learning for entrepreneurship
- Peer review will come

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