

Re: Course Pre Reading

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- *From:* "Bill Hobba" <rubbish@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 08 Jun 2006 02:30:08 GMT
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"PD" <TheDraperFamily@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1149713578.047250.248500@xx>

Ken S. Tucker wrote:

Phineas T PuddleDuck wrote:

In article
<1149703396.935315.182190@xx>,
"Ken S. Tucker" <dynamics@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

shuba wrote:

Bill wrote:

The study
bug has bit
and I have
decided to
actually
enroll in a
degree
in
physics.

Because my
math degree
is 25 years
old now
they won't
give me
exceptions
for

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the math.
Not really a
problem;
don't mind a
bit of
revision.
Does
anyone
have and
ideas on
some good
prereading
other than
the obvious
Feynman
lectures,
Landau etc
that I
already
have? I
really
would like
to
hear
from
guys like
PD, Bilge
etc that
actually
teaches/has
taught this
stuff, but
any
comments
most
welcome.

It's so great when people
decide to pursue educational
experiences for pure
intellectual enjoyment. You
are a
delightful person, Bill, and I
fully expect you will have a
wonderful time.

GAG, who want's an old fossil plugging up
the education system? A university is NOT
an OLD FOLK's HOME.

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If he can't muster the resources to learn the material – for himself – at his age, he never will.

Ken

I hope that's sarcasm.

Nope

I'm a mature student in his late 30's 3/4 of the way through a physics masters. Education should never be restricted, or the sole property of one age group. Agism really pisses me off.

You're far from retirement and your skill improvements will benefit society, OTOH Hobba suggested he wishes to take up university space as a hobby, he should by now become a member of the faculty, even as honorary.

Ken you have missed the point. Students learn for all sorts of reasons – but by far the best IMHO is for the pure fun of it and that has nothing to do with age.

Ken

I'll remind you that a young person can muster the same resources that an older person can to teach himself, if that were an effective way of doing things. In fact, they routinely do when they go to a university, paying a premium for the latest edition of a book that hasn't changed substantially for two decades, and for access to services that they may never use. Mustering those resources is precisely why they live on macaroni and cheese for a number of years. The reason they DON'T muster the resources to teach themselves is that it is not an efficient way to learn material. The only reason to try to learn something completely on your own is that you've got plenty of time to kill and you don't particularly care about the quality of the outcome. If you want to learn to play billiards really well, you don't teach yourself, you compete with someone who is better than you.

I'll also remind you that a university student PAYS for the service of being taught the material in an effective manner. If someone wants to pay for that in support of a hobby, there is no reason in the world

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they should not do it.

I'll also remind you that those tuition fees support, in part, the research program at that university, so that going to school DOES benefit society.

Very well said. I want to add that I consider the tuition I pay a bargain as well as the texts I purchase. It is pure luck on my part that here in Australia the government loans you the money and you pay it back later when your income allows. Because I will be formally retired by then my income will be low so it is unlikely I will pay it back before I die. But even if that was not the case I would still spend the money and cut back in other ways eg other retirees travel the world which has never really interested me much. Learning can never be done effectively on the cheap. The so called 'University of the Third Age' is a growing phenomena worldwide.

Thanks

Bill

PD