



A Brief History of Progressive Education with Dr. Jason Edwards

Lesson 7: The Pedagogical Progressives

Outline:

“Man is largely a creature of habit, and many of his activities are more or less automatic reflexes from the stimuli of his environment.”

G. Stanley Hall

“Just as the science and art of agriculture depend upon chemistry and botany, so the art of education depends upon physiology and psychology.”

Edward Thorndike

Key Pedagogical Progressives

- **John Dewey**
- **G. Stanley Hall**
 - President of Clark University in Massachusetts
 - He thought that school should not be focused on academics.
 - He viewed academics (historically developed and understood) as an impediment to a child’s natural growth and flourishing.
- **Edward Thorndike**
 - The founder of educational psychology
 - He believed that “science” could, and should, tell us how to teach in the classroom.
 - He believed that there was no such thing as a mind.
 - He believed that the human being as an assemblage of physical impulses determined by stimuli.
 - He believed that the human being can, and should, be trained for specific behaviors.
- **William Heard Kilpatrick**
 - Published an essay entitled “The Project Method” (1918)
 - He advocated for the implementation of “group work” in the classroom.
 - He believed subject matter is a means rather than an end.
 - He wanted schools to have “projects” consisting of construction, entertainment, problem solving, and practical learning.
 - He advocated learning by “doing” and learning by “experimentation”