

Wednesday, February 7, 3:30 pm, SSMS 2135

Education Automation: Behavioral Design of Learning Environments

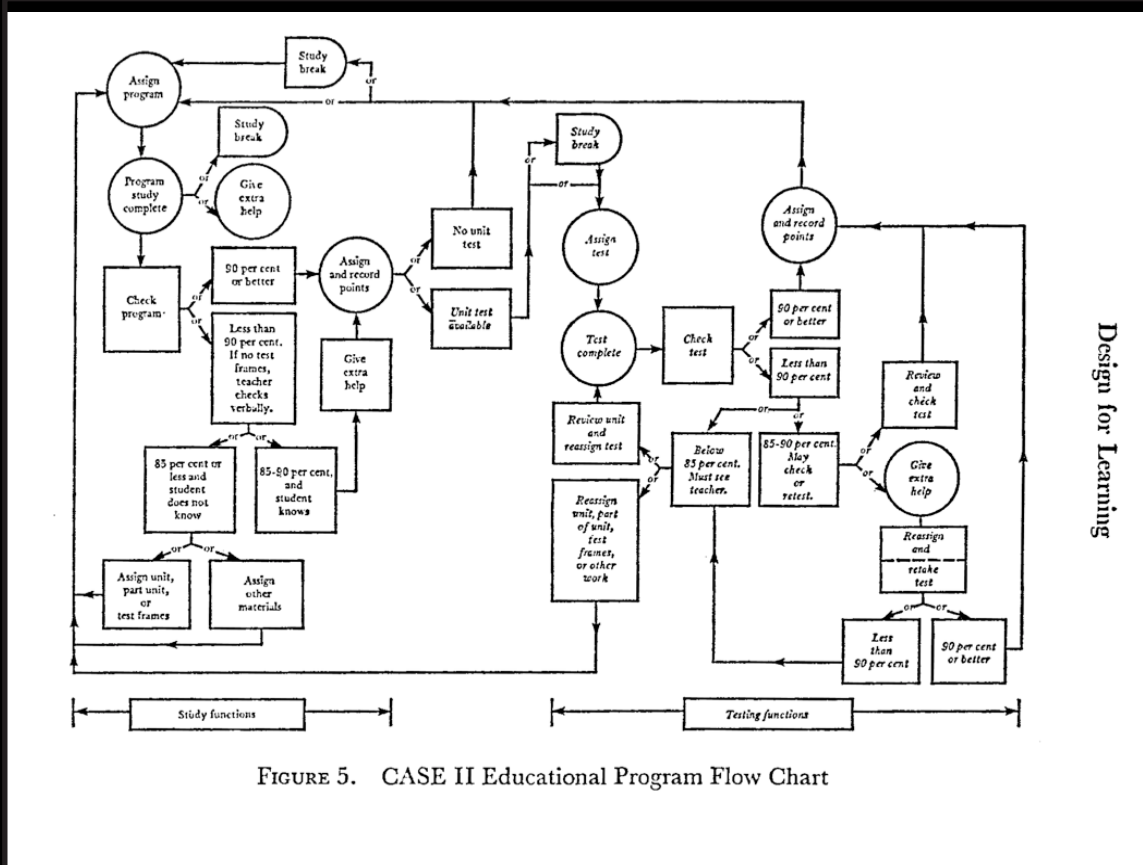


FIGURE 5. CASE II Educational Program Flow Chart

Christina Vagt,

Assistant Professor of German, UCSB



The talk discusses behavioristic design that emerged after World War II. in the context of educational reforms and newly founded design departments in the U.S. While Herbert A. Simon and B.F. Skinner stressed the significance of psychological and cognitive research on social behavior, the University of Illinois ran the first computer assisted instruction system, and designers like Harold Cohen, Richard Buckminster Fuller and John McHale designed prototypes of learning environments on all scales – from Kindergarten education to global simulations. This merging of design and behaviorism into new technologies can be understood both as a concrete historical constellation and as part of larger political technologies.

Christina Vagt is Assistant Professor at UCSB's Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies. She teaches history and theory of media and literature, as well as German and French philosophy. Her research focuses on epistemic and aesthetic relations between sciences and humanities and the role that media and technologies play in it.