

DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

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ABSTRACT:

RETHINKING ACTIVE LEARNING—UNCOMMON SENSETEACHING IN A POST-COVID, NEUROSCIENTIFIC WORLD

Over the past decade, there has been a dramatic rush towards active learning as the best method to teach students. But is all active learning all the time really the best way to teach, especially at a university level? What do evolutionary psychology and research involving high impact teaching interventions have to say about active learning? And what is happening in student brains that makes certain interventions particularly effective—or less effective? As it turns out, there are practical improvements you could make right now in your teaching to improve student motivation, engagement, and learning, all growing from recent findings in neuroscience. We'll be covering this, and much more, in this seminar, based on the upcoming critically acclaimed book *Uncommon Sense Teaching*, (Penguin Random House, June 15, 2021).

BIOGRAPHY:

Barbara Oakley is a Professor of Engineering at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Her work focuses on the complex relationship between neuroscience and social behavior. She teaches Coursera – UC San Diego's "Learning How to Learn," one of the world's most popular massive open online course with over three million registered students. Barb is a New York Times best-selling author—her book *A Mind for Numbers* has sold nearly a million copies in twenty languages worldwide. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. She has received many awards for her teaching, including the coveted National Science Foundation New Century Scholar Award.

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