

Teaching Philosophy

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As a teacher, I see it as my responsibility to challenge students to learn something in any course that I teach. I endeavor to provide this opportunity both for students who enter my course with a high level of knowledge and experience in the subject area, and those who come in with little to no knowledge or experience. This provides a challenge for me as a teacher, as I work to maximize the learning opportunities for all students while maintaining their interest and engagement in the course. Within the courses I teach, I encourage students to engage not only with me, but also with their classmates. I feel that everyone in the classroom has a responsibility for the learning process, and encouraging these connections allows every student to take on this responsibility, rather than sitting idly back and awaiting knowledge.

The classroom, whether physical or online, is a collaborative space. While I bring more knowledge to the learning environment than my students, I am not all-knowing. I stand to learn and grow during the teaching process, just as I hope my students will learn and grow. I encourage dialogue between myself and my students, and encourage them to challenge me, each other and themselves in a respectful manner. I often find that students who are allowed to challenge the instructor in a constructive way, are more engaged in the course material and work harder to improve their knowledge. While creating a classroom where students are able to do this in a safe and constructive way is not always easy, the final outcome has been beneficial to both me and the students.

As a teacher, I am often seen as open, engaging, approachable, and flexible. I feel that these are qualities necessary for my success as a teacher. Every student is different – they learn differently, approach the course differently, and have different goals for education. It is important that I recognize these differences and not try to force every student in my course to fit the same standards. This has been particularly important for the online courses that I teach, as I do not have the benefit of meeting and speaking with my students in person. I must work harder to connect with them, get to know them, and better understand their needs as students and learners.

Regardless of whether I'm teaching in-person or online, I feel that I have something to offer the students who take my courses. I look forward to the challenges that teaching brings on a daily basis – the opportunity to help others gain the knowledge they need to succeed, while also benefitting personally as a teacher.