

TEACHING STATEMENT

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In the past several years, I have taught Probability and Statistics, Linear Algebra, Single and Multivariate Variable Calculus and Ordinary Differential Equations. In addition to giving lectures, I designed the course syllabus, created homework assignments, quizzes and exams. I also advised students, supervised grading assistants, maintained a course web site, and decided the final course grades. This fall, I teach Introductory Probability and Statistics with multimedia tools, which allowed me to develop my own style of teaching. Through these experiences, I feel confident on my teaching skills and feel comfortable when I lecture.

I believe the best way to teach is to make the student an active participant in the process. When preparing a lecture I believe that every lecture should have a *title* and tell a *story*. I write clear notes and think about how to present the material to my students in a natural way. I try to anticipate the problems that students might have when they first encounter certain concepts and am open to questions.

A warm classroom atmosphere is important for effective teaching and learning. Humor and small gestures, like bringing cookies to class, increase students' motivation and hence improve their performance considerably. I always try to communicate my own enthusiasm to my students, and stimulate students' interest. I believe my own passion motivates students. Additionally, I hold review sections before each mid-term exam. The students say, "Good job, it helps a lot!". I also encourage group study and ask students to try to explain the material to other students in class.

Good communication is an indispensable ingredient for successful teaching. To understand each student's background better, I collect information on which math courses that student has taken, and sometimes give a diagnostic test to find out their basic knowledge about the course. Students feel more comfortable when the instructor know their names, so I hand out graded homework in person by calling their names. It not only helps me learn their names but also helps the students get to know each other better. I frequently remind students that I am always available and willing to help. Using office hours, email, special appointments and after-class meetings, I show my concern for the students and get feedback for the course. In one class, I had two students who seemed frustrated, but after some encouragement from me, they decided to stick with the course and eventually succeeded.

Teaching with excellence requires creative effort, patience and enthusiasm. Teaching is fun because it provides the joy of seeing students learn, appreciate, and get excited.