

In summarizing my teaching philosophy it may be proper at the outset to state that my classes are primarily studio classes... I hold to the belief that learning occurs more effectively when students are placed in a problem-solving mode whose solutions influence the way they will plan, learn, and behave in the future. Trusting students' instincts and individuality is a cornerstone of my teaching. Each personality is unique and students must be able to have faith in that fact and the confidence to express it dynamically in public. Students must learn that the solutions, possibilities and options are numerous and that the path taken may differ from student to student. - *Ray Paolino*

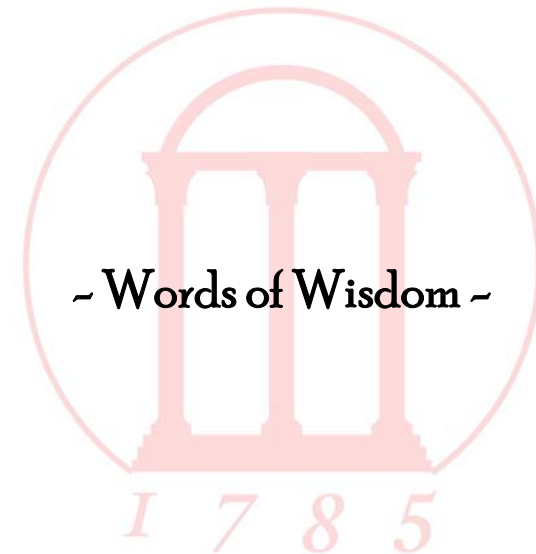
My primary role as a teacher is to create intellectually engaging and meaningful contexts for student learning. Students can gain certain types of knowledge from books, but teaching involves illuminating this knowledge from different angles. When planning courses and individual class sessions, I am guided foremost by the question: What do I want students to know and be able to do with the knowledge they receive? I owe it to my students to know my subject extremely well and to plan carefully by attending not only to what I want to teach but also how I want to teach it. - *Brigitte Rossbacher*

My philosophy as a teacher is that it is more important to teach the student than it is to teach the subject. Each student comes to me with a different set of life experiences, a different level of motivation and a different goal. A teaching style that motivates one student may not always motivate another. I feel strongly that the most important thing I can do for my students is to somehow inspire them...by being an enthusiastic teacher and role model for what is possible in teaching. What is important to me is that my students know that I am totally vested in their education and have an unwavering interest in seeing them succeed, not only as musicians, but also as human beings. - *David Zerkel*

Successful teaching needs an environment where all teachers and all courses are part of something bigger, the training of students. I used to think that teaching was about sharing or, more exactly, I dispense art history, the students absorb it, unaltered, and agreeing with me, return it to me whole cloth. I am, today, a much better teacher because I have learned, or I might say more accurately that I have been taught by generations of students, that teaching is not and cannot be about me. I aim for an experience that leads each student to be a better scholar, not necessarily of Italian art, but of any intellectual pursuit, the basis for a well-lived and productive life. - *Shelley Zuraw*

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Respect and responsibility underpin my teaching philosophy and define my view of the teaching/learning process. I begin every class with high expectations for myself and for the students, who I never underestimate. My overarching goal is to encourage their sense of accomplishment so that, before the semester ends, their expectations of themselves will exceed my own. Through my enthusiasm for the course material and my belief in their abilities, I strive to show the students that the best source of motivation lies within them. - *Carolina Acosta-Alzuru*

I ground my teaching in two complementary frameworks, each of which can be characterized as both a philosophy and a methodology for teaching: democratic learning and service-learning. I incorporate the principles of democratic learning and service-learning into everything I do to support learning, from teaching undergraduate and graduate courses to mentoring doctoral students and serving as middle school program coordinator. - *Gayle Andrews*

Teaching is inseparable from learning. Whatever "learning experience" students may derive from my courses is a reflection less of any particular method or approach I use, or even of the subject matter of my courses, than of my ability to communicate what I find fascinating about the subject - what I have learned about it and what I am still learning about it... the most effective teachers are those who instill a love of learning in their students. - *Joel Black*

I teach because I love to learn and hope to instill that love of learning in others. I hope to help others discover, as I did many years ago, joy from the scholarly pursuit of knowledge. In my teaching, I sincerely believe that I can change the quality of my students' lives by not only giving them information they can use but by teaching them to seek more information as they face new decisions and new situations. - *Brenda Cude*

Placed on my desk is the quote by William Ward, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." I remind myself daily that I must never slow down in my desire to become a great teacher for my students. This is what students deserve. I also remind myself that all I accomplish is for the student's growth and well being...In my opinion, there is no greater nor more honorable profession than teaching. - *Christine Franklin*

As a teacher I believe I have a responsibility to lead by example I should come to class fully prepared. I should effectively use class time, including honoring start and stop times. I should give prompt and objective feedback by returning graded work in a timely manner. I should respect every student and treat every question with dignity. I cannot ask them to perform at a higher level of commitment than what I show them with my own actions. - *Dale Greene*

It is important to recognize that what works in one situation may or may not work in another and that one has to be adaptable. I think teachers should always experiment with their delivery and try to keep it fresh. If a teacher becomes bored or disenchanted, their effectiveness will suffer. I think we as teachers oftentimes assume the answer or solution should be obvious... we forget what it was like to be on the other side at times. I believe it is the responsibility of a good teacher to help students learn to think critically. - *Mark A. Harrison*

I work from three core teaching philosophy statements: creating a positive classroom atmosphere so that students feel comfortable in asking questions and discussing issues, being enthusiastic, and engaging students through active learning. Teaching should be continuous learning, not just learning course content. I have found that some of my best learning experiences come from the most difficult situations. Each situation has made me a better teacher. - *Patricia Hunt-Hurst*

I want to help students feel the same excitement about learning and discovery that I felt as a college student. I am continually trying to adapt my teaching methods to enhance learning for the majority of my students. My quick guide to teaching: show enthusiasm for the subject, encourage questions and discussion, be fair, be prepared and organized to lecture, and demonstrate that you care that the students are learning. I don't think there is any formula for good teaching...we all have to find a way to effectively convey what we know using the strengths of our own personalities and experiences. - *Rhett Jackson*

Teachers should be role models for their students... After many years of teaching, I am more convinced than ever that if you do not want to learn when you enter the classroom, you will not be able to teach, and while I strive to be the best possible teacher, I know this goal can only be achieved if I allow my students to teach me. I attempt to inculcate in students the confidence to question and criticize whatever is presented in class, including their teacher's opinion, and to argue their point within a forum that is challenging but not hostile. At the same time I seek to create a classroom where achievement is considered a collective that ultimately exceeds individual accomplishments. - *Martin Kagel*

I strive for a participatory classroom. After 28 years in the classroom, I still find classroom teaching stimulating and exciting and often transformative. I learn through teaching. That also means that I frequently revise, revamp or reinvigorate old courses and invent new ones. I am a teacher who does not stand still. If I see something that promises to enhance my teaching, I grab it...The wonderful thing about teaching is that you never know who will be affected by your teaching and how. That's the miracle of our vocation. - *Naomi J. Norman*