

Teaching Tips/Notes



Statement of Graduate Teaching Philosophy

I consider teaching an important part of my academic career and devote an inordinate amount of time, effort, and commitment to teaching because I want to improve the performance of each and every student. To be an effective teacher, I follow the strategies and philosophies listed below.

- 1) I present well-planned, structured, and organized lectures and courses.
- 2) At the beginning of the class, I review previous lectures and list the topics to be covered in the current lecture.
- 3) I assign readings and distribute class notes in advance, giving students ample time to prepare, which significantly improves their grasp of the lecture. Students appreciate advance distribution of the notes, and have told me numerous times that it makes a world of difference if they have read the assignments.
- 4) I give short quizzes to encourage students to come prepared for the class.
- 5) I always spend a considerable amount of time preparing before each lecture.
- 6) I focus heavily on good oral and written communication.
- 7) I employ the following teaching techniques: clear writing on the board, power point presentations, use of smart board, and software to solve problems.
- 8) I clearly explain the materials step by step.
- 9) I divide complex topics into segments and make it easier for students to understand.
- 10) I use graphical and mathematical analysis to improve students' understanding of the subject matter.
- 11) My subject matter coverage is in-depth, rigorous, and challenges students to reach their maximum potential.
- 12) I emphasize understanding the subject matter rather than rote memorization.
- 13) I focus on applications of theory by using real world examples.
- 14) I use journal articles to keep the students at the cutting edge of recent developments in the subject matter.
- 15) During my lectures, I ask students frequently if they have any questions that need to be clarified.
- 16) At the end of each class, I summarize material covered in that lecture.
- 17) I encourage students to participate in the class discussion by allocating 5-10% of total scores to participation. I also give small bonus points (1% of the total grade) for answering a critical question and for asking challenging questions. This approach keeps students excited, motivated, and interested in the lectures.
- 18) I use "food for thought" coupons from the university and my own money to take top students for lunch.

19) I also give extra credit (5%) if a student gives a lecture on selected topics. This approach not only enhances the understanding of the subject matter but also builds students' confidence in their public speaking skills.

20) I employ humor in the classroom. Humor not only keeps the class interesting but also can be a powerful communication and teaching tool.

21) I assign problem sets and class projects dealing with real world agricultural problems. For these projects, I work with students very closely and take them through various steps: find topics of mutual interest, aid them with data search and collection, assist with the review of literature by reading numerous articles along with them, teach students about theoretical models, help with empirical analysis, and continuously work with them on the art of writing papers. From these research projects, I help the students to publish journal articles.

22) I avoid assigning too much weight to any particular exam or homework so that students will not lose many points if they did not do well on that exam or homework.

23) I keep students abreast of their progress by giving frequent feedback.

24) Before each exam, I review all the portions covered in the class.

25) I am readily available and easily accessible to students during the office hours and other times. I encourage students to contact me at any time to clarify doubts.

26) I use a website (<http://webpages.uidaho.edu/agecon533/>) to post my syllabus, notes, assignments, and past exams. This helps students to know what to expect on upcoming assignments, quizzes, and exams.

27) My extracurricular activities include: inviting students for dinner during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holidays; organizing picnics, camping trips, and ski trips for students.

28) It is important to reward hard-working and deserving students. I always nominate my students for scholarly awards. My students have received awards at the department-level, college-level, university-level, and professional associations.

Submitted by:

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