

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Several fundamental principles make up my teaching philosophy: All students absorb and learn information through different medias and teaching styles; Each student should have a fundamental understanding of the subject material and be able to connect what they have learned to their existing knowledge; Students must feel comfortable approaching a teacher for additional comments or questions. It is important to facilitate this process, it also allows for feedback from students to help a teacher improve their teaching methods.

I do recognize that students learn in different ways and I am committed to including all students in the learning process. I should be able to vary teaching styles and should expect students to participate in a mixture of lecture, discussion, and group activities occurring both indoors and outdoors (field based). Technology is important in the classroom since it is a rapidly developing instructional vehicle and can be an invaluable tool for addressing different learning styles. It allows students to become more involved in the processes of learning rather than focusing on the product that they produce, although I have found that focusing on the process invariably leads to a better product. I must be aware of what students know when they come into the classroom to form a foundation on which to build as well as how to tap into that knowledge. I view teaching as a process of encouraging students to make connections between their real world experiences and the subject under study. In any course, I should attempt to guide students through subject matter and facilitate new discoveries. Students should always take away new insights, explanations, and skills.

Writing is one of the most important skills that a student can develop. I want integrate the development of good writing skills into any class I teach. Being an effective writer can allow a student to develop his or her ideas to their fullest potential and can allow him or her to communicate those ideas to others. Writing skills developed in the beginning of a student's career can enable the student to be successful for the rest of his or her professional career. Writing assignments in which students become involved with content, whether current issues, literature review, science, history, or other, are one of the best means of encouraging students to engage in critical thinking.

I am responsible for building a relationship with students. I should make my best effort to learn students names and be aware of their general interests. I should be accessible to all students, making sure that I talk to individual students both inside and outside the classroom and that I am available to students after class. With university level students, a strong mentoring relationship is essential