

Teaching Philosophy

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Engaging Students Through Research and Real-Life Analogies

At the heart of my teaching philosophy is the integration of research into the classroom to inspire and engage students in the field of economics. For example, in my *Labor Economics* course, I illustrate how traditional theories serve as a robust foundation for contemplation and investigation, while also highlighting their limitations, thereby paving the way for further research opportunities. I exemplify this by presenting insights from my current paper on price regulations, contrasting it with conventional theories on price controls. Moreover, I strive to make economic concepts more relatable and memorable by connecting them to real-life phenomena and using analogies. In my *Money & Banking* class, I elucidate the Federal Reserve's Monetary Policy with a vivid analogy: comparing interest rates to the height of a dam's floodgates, and the money supply to the flow of water. This approach helps students, especially those who are not majoring in economics, to better understand and retain complex economic ideas.

Success Rates and Student Support

The pass rate in my classes has been 100% as opposed to the usual 75-80% for instructors who taught before me. I achieved this by demonstrating concepts through real-life examples and giving enough problem practice to the students, which ensured better retention. I believe that failure of a student is the failure of the instructor. There have been students in my class who were battling health concerns, dealing with the pain of losing someone from their families, or having big responsibilities such as taking care of a sick family member. Additionally, students from lower socio-economic backgrounds often work multiple jobs while managing the tough workload from school, all at the same time. My grading structure is optimally designed to prevent such students from flunking, while also being fair enough by rewarding students who, despite fewer challenges, performed well in the class. The aim is to improve their understanding of concepts and their confidence, which would help them in their job search and life, rather than penalize them for their disadvantages.

Interactive and Fun Learning Environment

I believe in keeping the classes fun and interactive, ensuring the active involvement of all students so that no student feels left out.