

Teaching Statement

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I believe that teaching involves not only presenting information to students but also encouraging students to experiment and make discoveries on their own. The knowledge gained by discovery will be retained much longer than anything heard in a lecture or read from a book. To this end, I regularly assign homeworks and projects which encourage independence and creativity.

Each student is unique. Thus, it is unlikely that all students will understand material presented in a lecture to the same degree. Students need to be given opportunity and encouragement to ask questions during class and outside of class. I encourage class discussion by asking students for input while presenting examples, answering their questions and directing them to outside resources. Since some students need additional help or are reluctant to ask questions during class, I also encourage students to see me outside of class during office hours or by making an appointment.

Technology can be a useful teaching tool. Web sites, e-mail and in class demonstrations are ways in which the use of technology enhances classroom instruction. I intend to develop online class portals so that students can download lecture notes, read FAQ's, complete homework assignments, check their grades and submit projects. I encourage the use of e-mail. I think posting questions and answers concerning specific homeworks or projects is beneficial for the entire class. I prefer to use a computer for classroom presentations. This allows me to present prepared material, demonstrate software and execute examples.

I believe regular class attendance is necessary. I expect students to attend class and complete assignments. Students who miss in-class discussions or fail to complete assignments are rarely successful.

Treatment of students and evaluation of students' work should be fair and unbiased. Allowing cheating and plagiarism not only defeats the learning process but is usually unfair to other students in the class.

I am interested in teaching courses in artificial intelligence, logic programming, data modeling and algorithms. I would like to develop courses in computer simulation using artificial intelligence techniques. I have taught courses in programming, software engineering and computer organization.