

Statement of Teaching Philosophy & Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

Max Dolinsky

My teaching philosophy has evolved over the last decade as I have experienced various levels of academia and sought to enhance my ability to teach. While receiving my undergraduate degree, I registered to be a discussion leader for an undergraduate chemistry classes. I was initially nervous, but I quickly gained confidence and learned how to facilitate productive discussions. I gained first-hand insight into the role that confidence plays in the management of smooth classroom discussions. This lesson proved to be invaluable just a few years later when I taught a year of high school math, and classroom management was essential for survival. Through these experiences, I discovered that students are more likely to master the material if the class is interactive and provides the opportunity to apply recently acquired knowledge. Accordingly, I maintain focus on developing interactive coursework, which contains a variety of hands-on exercises.

After gaining experiences both as a high school teacher and a corporate analyst, I decided to pursue an MBA at UF. There, I was immersed in a new sort of classroom environment, initially in the role of a student and later in the roles of review session leader and informal instructor. Through the experience of tutoring professional MBAs (part-time students who make significant investments of their time and resources), I developed a new teaching skill-set. Since managing students' behavior was no longer a priority at this level, I learned to focus on clearly conveying the material and leaving little room for errors. Additionally, I realized that an effective teacher should be flexible and versatile, especially if he/she wants to succeed at accommodating the varied backgrounds and learning styles of a large group of students.

Throughout my experience in educating students at ranging educational backgrounds, I eventually developed a two-pronged teaching philosophy. The first tenant of this philosophy was especially tested and polished while teaching two sections of an Investments undergraduate course, where I earned overall instructor ratings of 4.89 and 4.75 out of 5.00 (college mean 4.22). To keep a classroom of 50 undergraduate students attentive, I learned to encourage students to take ownership of their course performance. I developed ways to keep them engaged while also receiving continual feedback by observing the students. I elicited students' curiosity and worked out techniques that helped me keep the students focused. Through creative attendance policies and in-class, small-group assignments, I successfully demonstrated the value of taking responsibility for one's education and academic accomplishments.

The second tenant of my teaching philosophy is my commitment to continually improve my instruction. For example, in the pursuit of mastering teaching in different media, I challenged myself to learn how to create online, Khan academy-style videos that I could share with students. My students found the videos to be valuable supplements to my in-person lessons and even requested videos on additional topics. This semester, as I was hired as a Lecturer to teach three sections of Fixed Income, I am acquiring new tools to build on this tenant. For example, by implementing Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique (IF-AT), I gather feedback from students in real time, which helps me understand the effectiveness of my teaching methods and how students learn better.

While I am pleased with the teaching progress and success that I have achieved so far, I identify with Babe Ruth when he said, "Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games." I look forward to advancing and further developing my teaching skills and philosophy during my academic career.

Term: 2014 Spring
 College: Business Administration
 Department(s): Finance, Insurance & Real Estate
 Course(s): FIN4504
 Section(s): 2114
 Instructor: Dolinsky, Maxim Sergeyevich (4050-7380)
 Response Rate: 60.00% (responded: 27, enrolled: 45)

Question	Percentages						Mean	StdDev	Median	Course Mean	Dept Mean	College Mean
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Omitted						
1 Description of course objectives and assignments	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.52%	81.48%	0.00%	4.81	0.40	5.00	4.71	4.39	4.31
2 Communication of ideas and information	0.00%	0.00%	3.70%	29.63%	66.67%	0.00%	4.63	0.56	5.00	4.49	4.25	4.15
3 Expression of expectations for performance in this class	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.81%	85.19%	0.00%	4.85	0.36	5.00	4.63	4.39	4.26
4 Availability to assist students in or out of class	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	5.00	0.00	5.00	4.90	4.27	4.17
5 Respect and concern for students	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	92.59%	0.00%	4.93	0.27	5.00	4.83	4.42	4.29
6 Stimulation of interest in course	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	92.59%	0.00%	4.93	0.27	5.00	4.85	4.33	4.09
7 Facilitation of learning	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	18.52%	81.48%	0.00%	4.81	0.40	5.00	4.67	4.22	4.07
8 Enthusiasm for the subject	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	92.59%	0.00%	4.93	0.27	5.00	4.85	4.60	4.38
9 Encouragement of independent, creative, and critical thinking	0.00%	0.00%	7.41%	11.11%	81.48%	0.00%	4.74	0.59	5.00	4.67	4.44	4.13
Averages for questions 1-9							4.85	0.35	5.00	4.73	4.37	4.21
10 Overall rating of the instructor	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.11%	88.89%	0.00%	4.89	0.32	5.00	4.75	4.34	4.17
11 Amount learned	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	4.67	0.48	5.00	4.49	4.17	4.05
12 Amount of effort required	0.00%	0.00%	25.93%	29.63%	44.44%	0.00%	4.19	0.83	4.00	4.24	4.15	4.13
13 Difficulty of the subject matter	0.00%	3.70%	14.81%	33.33%	48.15%	0.00%	4.26	0.86	4.00	4.24	4.05	3.9
14 The educational value (relevance) of this course	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	14.81%	85.19%	0.00%	4.85	0.36	5.00	4.76	4.41	4.19
15 Expected grade	0.00%	0.00%	25.93%	29.63%	44.44%	0.00%	4.19	0.83	4.00	4.20	4.12	4.02
Averages for questions 11-15							4.43	0.67	4.40	4.39	4.18	4.06

Term: 2014 Spring
 College: Business Administration
 Department(s): Finance, Insurance & Real Estate
 Course(s): FIN4504
 Section(s): 2113
 Instructor: Dolinsky, Maxim Sergeyevich (4050-7380)
 Response Rate: 59.57% (responded: 28, enrolled: 47)

Question	Percentages						Mean	StdDev	Median	Course Mean	Dept Mean	College Mean
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Omitted						
1 Description of course objectives and assignments	0.00%	3.57%	0.00%	21.43%	75.00%	0.00%	4.68	0.67	5.00	4.71	4.39	4.31
2 Communication of ideas and information	3.57%	0.00%	0.00%	21.43%	75.00%	0.00%	4.64	0.83	5.00	4.49	4.25	4.15
3 Expression of expectations for performance in this class	3.57%	0.00%	3.57%	25.00%	67.86%	0.00%	4.54	0.88	5.00	4.63	4.39	4.26
4 Availability to assist students in or out of class	3.57%	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	89.29%	0.00%	4.79	0.79	5.00	4.90	4.27	4.17
5 Respect and concern for students	0.00%	3.57%	3.57%	14.29%	78.57%	0.00%	4.68	0.72	5.00	4.83	4.42	4.29
6 Stimulation of interest in course	0.00%	0.00%	3.57%	10.71%	85.71%	0.00%	4.82	0.48	5.00	4.85	4.33	4.09
7 Facilitation of learning	0.00%	3.57%	0.00%	14.29%	82.14%	0.00%	4.75	0.65	5.00	4.67	4.22	4.07
8 Enthusiasm for the subject	0.00%	3.57%	0.00%	7.14%	89.29%	0.00%	4.82	0.61	5.00	4.85	4.60	4.38
9 Encouragement of independent, creative, and critical thinking	0.00%	0.00%	7.14%	25.00%	67.86%	0.00%	4.61	0.63	5.00	4.67	4.44	4.13
Averages for questions 1-9							4.70	0.70	5.00	4.73	4.37	4.21
10 Overall rating of the instructor	0.00%	3.57%	0.00%	14.29%	82.14%	0.00%	4.75	0.65	5.00	4.75	4.34	4.17
11 Amount learned	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	25.00%	60.71%	0.00%	4.46	0.74	5.00	4.49	4.17	4.05
12 Amount of effort required	0.00%	3.57%	28.57%	21.43%	46.43%	0.00%	4.11	0.96	4.00	4.24	4.15	4.13
13 Difficulty of the subject matter	3.57%	0.00%	25.00%	32.14%	39.29%	0.00%	4.04	1.00	4.00	4.24	4.05	3.9
14 The educational value (relevance) of this course	0.00%	3.57%	0.00%	25.00%	67.86%	3.57%	4.63	0.69	5.00	4.76	4.41	4.19
15 Expected grade	0.00%	0.00%	17.86%	39.29%	42.86%	0.00%	4.25	0.75	4.00	4.20	4.12	4.02
Averages for questions 11-15							4.30	0.83	4.40	4.39	4.18	4.06

Term: 2016 Spring
 College: Business Administration
 Department(s): Finance, Insurance & Real Estate
 Course(s): FIN4504
 Section(s): 1E96
 Instructor: Dolinsky, Maxim Sergeyevich (4050-7380)
 Response Rate: 70.73% (responded: 29, enrolled: 41)

Question	Percentages						Mean	StdDev	Median	Course Mean	Dept Mean	College Mean
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Omitted						
1 Description of course objectives and assignments	0.00%	0.00%	6.90%	10.34%	82.76%	0.00%	4.76	0.58	5.00	4.00	4.35	4.38
2 Communication of ideas and information	0.00%	0.00%	13.79%	20.69%	65.52%	0.00%	4.52	0.74	5.00	3.68	4.07	4.2
3 Expression of expectations for performance in this class	0.00%	0.00%	10.34%	13.79%	75.86%	0.00%	4.66	0.67	5.00	3.88	4.31	4.34
4 Availability to assist students in or out of class	0.00%	0.00%	6.90%	3.45%	89.66%	0.00%	4.83	0.54	5.00	4.11	4.09	4.24
5 Respect and concern for students	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	13.79%	86.21%	0.00%	4.86	0.35	5.00	4.21	4.13	4.31
6 Stimulation of interest in course	0.00%	0.00%	3.45%	20.69%	75.86%	0.00%	4.72	0.53	5.00	3.82	4.10	4.2
7 Facilitation of learning	0.00%	3.45%	10.34%	10.34%	75.86%	0.00%	4.59	0.82	5.00	3.70	3.98	4.16
8 Enthusiasm for the subject	0.00%	0.00%	6.90%	6.90%	86.21%	0.00%	4.79	0.56	5.00	3.93	4.44	4.48
9 Encouragement of independent, creative, and critical thinking	0.00%	0.00%	6.90%	10.34%	82.76%	0.00%	4.76	0.58	5.00	3.84	4.18	4.23
Averages for questions 1-9							4.72	0.60	5.00	3.91	4.18	4.28
10 Overall rating of the instructor	0.00%	0.00%	13.79%	10.34%	75.86%	0.00%	4.62	0.73	5.00	3.77	4.13	4.24
11 Amount learned	0.00%	0.00%	10.34%	24.14%	65.52%	0.00%	4.55	0.69	5.00	3.91	4.06	4.17
12 Amount of effort required	0.00%	0.00%	13.79%	37.93%	48.28%	0.00%	4.34	0.72	4.00	4.18	4.56	4.24
13 Difficulty of the subject matter	0.00%	0.00%	24.14%	41.38%	34.48%	0.00%	4.10	0.77	4.00	4.05	4.37	3.97
14 The educational value (relevance) of this course	0.00%	0.00%	3.45%	27.59%	68.97%	0.00%	4.66	0.55	5.00	4.33	4.31	4.28
15 Expected grade	0.00%	0.00%	17.24%	37.93%	44.83%	0.00%	4.28	0.75	4.00	3.93	3.85	4.05
Averages for questions 11-15							4.39	0.70	4.40	4.08	4.23	4.14