

Classroom Observation of Rebecca Elinich, MMC 160 - Game Design & Simulation 1
6 November 2017

I had the pleasure of observing Rebecca Elinich's classroom this semester, and was duly impressed by her attention to student learning and careful explanation of complex skills to students in a hands-on, engaging fashion.


To begin with, Rebecca's classroom is meticulously ordered to facilitate student learning. Goals for the day were clearly written on the board, and she handed out a clear rubric for the final project.

Secondly, the course content was clearly presented and engaging. Although the class was discussing a specific programming task, Rebecca carefully placed it within the larger context of the field and project. She discussed the importance of audience analysis in HUD construction, which emphasized the design elements of the task while linking it to broader critical thinking skills in the field. Additionally, she was careful to clarify terminology across different programming platforms, which will help the students as they distinguish between terms in different programming languages.

Finally, her work with students was impeccable. The programming was all hands-on, and students worked along on their computers while she modeled the task on the projector. In discussion, she was great at eliciting suggestions and knowledge from students, and she rooted all of her examples in lived experience--both hers and her students. This sort of attention to student experience allows for deep understanding and critical thought. She worked through difficult material with compassion, clarity, and humor.

My only suggestions must be qualified by noting that I was only in the classroom for a short period of time, and these may be a part of the larger arc of the course. However, I would love to see the students apply the skills in the context of a larger project, real or hypothetical. Additionally, it may save time to have students set up their program prior to class, perhaps by following written instructions.

Overall, I feel that Rebecca demonstrates all the skills that make a great teacher. I am confident that she prioritizes serving her students and has a deft understanding of both pedagogy and content.

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