

Yisroel Cahn | Teaching Statement

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Teaching Philosophy

The most important quality teachers should have is empathy for their students. Learning is difficult, especially in an analytical field like economics or statistics. It is easy for students to become discouraged, but with proper support, all students can succeed.

I believe in learning by doing and include practice problems throughout my lectures. This keeps students engaged and helps them to think critically about the material. My hands-on style makes it easy for students to fully master the material on their own because lectures are reinforced with practice and homework assignments.

My objective as an instructor is to equip students with tools they can use in the future. Therefore, I try to highlight the applications and policy relevance of what we learn. I always enjoy sharing weekly current events with the class. For example, when David Card won the 2021 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, I spent a class in my Principles of Microeconomics course talking about how empirical and theoretical economics work together to shape policy, using Card's paper on minimum wage as an example.

I made the students in my Introductory Business Statistics class make two stock portfolios — one in which students heuristically chose stocks, and the other in which they downloaded stock price data and calculated Sharpe ratios. At the end of the semester, I used a paired t-test to evaluate if using the statistics we learned in class improved portfolio performance. The students found the assignment captivating and fun.

I am delighted when my students show interest in what I taught them and try to apply it outside class to address significant social issues. When a student requested guidance for research they wanted to do on income disparities between men and women, I was pleased to provide extra assistance. Many students I wrote recommendation letters for have successfully gained admission to prestigious master's and PhD programs, showcasing their hard work and the strong foundation we built together in the classroom.

Teaching is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly, and I am committed to providing a first-rate education to my students. I do so by caring about their success, providing an active learning environment, and promoting the development of skills they will use.

Previous Teaching Experience

I taught classes in Statistics, Econometrics, Causal Inference, Labor Economics, Managerial Economics, and Introductory Microeconomics.

Evidence of Success

I received near perfect teaching reviews (please see my CV for a detailed list of classes I taught with their accompanying teaching evaluations). Some student reviews include:

- “He seemed to truly care about the students as individuals and really cared about learning for the sake of learning instead of a means to an end.”*
- “...It was abundantly clear that he was passionate about what he was teaching and it carried through within these lectures. Learning was always the first priority for Cahn and he would always double or triple check to make sure the entire class was understanding the content before moving on.”*
- “I loved how responsive he was to any confusion or concerns that we had about the material. He would always go above and beyond to try to answer our questions. Also, in a remote learning setting where we were not working face to face, he really encouraged us to engage and ask questions. It really seemed like he wanted us to understand and benefit from the material.”*
- “The professor was very enthusiastic about the material and made an effort to keep us engaged in an online environment.”*
- “...There was never a worry about being unable to learn something because it was always easy to ask for help and immediately get that assistance.”*
- “Never made students uncomfortable to ask a question again and he would redo questions as many times as needed to allow our class to understand. Amazing professor!”*
- “Best Professor I have ever had in my 4 years. Professor Cahn makes difficult concepts digestable, is responsive to emails, and goes above and beyond for his students.”*
- “Professor Cahn is an outstanding instructor who brings clarity and enthusiasm to microeconomics. Their lectures are well- structured and engaging, often incorporating real-life examples that make complex theories more approachable. I especially appreciated the professor’s patience in answering questions and the clear explanations of challenging concepts like elasticity, market efficiency, and game theory. The slides and supplementary materials were always helpful and organized. Professor Cahn also created a welcoming learning environment that encouraged participation and critical thinking. Thanks to his teaching, I now feel much more confident in applying microeconomic principles to both academic and real-world problems.”*
- “His commitment to students is unrivaled.”*