

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. 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 am delighted when my students show interest in what I taught them and try to apply it outside class to address significant social issues. For example, 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.

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 Intro. to Microeconomics in the Summer 2020, Fall 2020, and Fall 2021 semesters at Emory University, and in the Summer 2022 semester at New York University. Additionally, I was a teaching assistant for Intro. to Microeconomics, Probability & Statistics for Economists, and Econometrics at Emory University.

Evidence of Success

I received near perfect teaching reviews of 8.02/9, 8.03/9, 7.91/9, and 4.8/5 for teaching Principles of Microeconomics. 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."*
- "His commitment to students is unrivaled."*