

Teaching Statement

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I have loved studying data analysis, but as an instructor for data analytics courses, I realized that I also loved teaching it. During my time at the University of Houston and Brandeis University, I had the opportunity to gain valuable lessons and develop my perspective on teaching.

I always attempt to engage students in the classroom regardless of the course content. My purpose in teaching is to foster a culture of curiosity in the classroom. The point is learning. I know teaching without learning happens quite often. However, teaching should help students learn better and faster, but teachers cannot learn for them. I believe teaching is the secondary activity in the classroom. Learning is the most essential thing in the class, and teachers need to be aware of what happens to the students. My job is to create a caring and collaborative classroom environment where students feel esteemed and safe since students approach the class in various ways.

I approach teaching with two principles. First, a healthy respect for inclusion is key for students to engage in a learning experience in class. Effective communication between an instructor and students is important, but students afraid of looking silly in front of the class often hold back their opinions. Such shame-withdraw tendencies are deeply harmful to the learning of the silent student and entire students in the class. The problem gets worse in an online course since providing inputs are much harder for students, and instructors hardly recognize whether students understand the materials without in-person contact. For these reasons, I promote collaboration between the students, and this is my second principle. I assign a particular amount of time to a group of students in every lecture regardless of course content. Their job is to present the course material of the day, and it is valuable for reasons. Firstly, students learn and understand concepts differently from each other, and collaboration is the unique way to reap the benefits from this diversity. It is undoubtedly a challenging task to share ideas with others. However, my collaboration experience with peers during my Ph.D. study not only provided me a fresh perspective on the project but also helped me organize my thought to explain it to others. Moreover, the group presentation would help the students reduce fears of speaking in public and understand their role in the classroom.

The teaching experience both at the University of Houston and Brandeis taught me that preparation on the part of the lecturer is one of the most important traits. I admit that expecting the same level of pleasure and engagement from the entire class would be unfeasible. I spent a considerable amount of time writing blueprints of the course. I provided a clear course syllabus and sufficient supporting material to help students be organized and learn at least basic concepts in case they miss the class. I tried to fix any complications which could distract students' learning and examine whether students have the mental capacity to respond as they sometimes grappled with the materials. Although this discussion of preparation may sound mundane, I have learned that outlining the material beforehand, in general, is not sufficient. Only by putting in the effort in advance on the details can the instructor guarantee that the majority of students have a reasonable chance of absorbing the material.

During my time at the University of Houston, I felt that I had become a better teacher. I was honored to be surrounded by faculty and colleagues with a wealth of teaching experience and passion for students. The lessons I learned from them were why I won *the Economics Department Graduate Student Teaching Award in 2021*.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to teach data analytics courses at the Brandeis International Business School. I continue learning and growing as a teacher here. I have taught two classes, Foundations of Data Analytics and Information Visualization, in Fall 2022 and will teach two more courses, Advanced Data Analytics and Introduction to Natural Language Processing, in Spring 2023. Foundations of Data Analytics is designed for professionals who will be using analytics on large datasets. I introduce how relational database system is managed and provides experience with applications of data analytics specific to business decisions. Advanced Data Analytics teaches students the grammar of graphics in open-source applications. Advanced Data Analytics teaches theory and best practices of modern business analytics with particular attention to predictive modeling in machine learning. The Introduction to Natural Language Processing aims to survey the foundations in text analysis and provides the practical applications of a neural network system.

All my course contents are posted on the Brandeis moodle platform. You can find some example class materials here: https://yeabinmoonecon.github.io/ibs_course/index.html
Please contact me with any questions or requests for additional materials or documentation.