

Teaching Statement

Darapheak Tin

Research School of Economics
Australian National University

Teaching Philosophy

I approach teaching economics as a foundation for critical thinking, where models serve not as objects of reverence but as tools to structure thought, inspire inquiry, and reveal pathways for empirical exploration. My philosophy centers on teaching students not only economic concepts but also the assumptions and purposes underlying each topic. I aim to provide students with clarity and relevance, sharing knowledge I wish I had known during my own education. In doing so, I hope to instill lasting passion for economics.

Supporting struggling students is also a central priority for me, as I understand firsthand the transformative impact of a supportive teacher. I recognize that students may one day make impactful decisions shaping their communities, nations, or even the world, and I am committed to equipping them with the skills to make thoughtful, informed choices.

Methods and Strategies

My teaching style adapts to course levels. In foundational courses, I take a more structured approach to minimize confusion and prevent cross-validation of false information among students. In advanced courses where students have a solid grounding, my teaching leans towards a more discussion-oriented approach.

Across all courses, I structure complex concepts incrementally, building on foundational knowledge so that students can tackle advanced topics with confidence. I regularly ask questions and encourage students to view mistakes as learning opportunities. I also draw on my own experiences as an undergraduate student who faced similar challenges, making myself relatable and helping students feel more at ease experimenting, seeking guidance, and learning from feedback.

Experience

I have extensive teaching experience across a broad range of undergraduate and graduate courses in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) at the Australian National University (ANU). Starting as a Teaching Assistant in 2018, I was appointed as an Associate Lecturer at the Research School of Economics in 2022-2023. Currently, I serve as a Head Teaching Assistant. Throughout my teaching career, I have consistently received high student evaluations, with **average survey scores over 4.5/5.**¹

¹Click [here](#) to download my teaching evaluation survey results.

Courses I have taught include:

Course	Instructor(s)
Microeconomics 1	Assoc. Prof. Paul Chen
Macroeconomics 1	Dr. Cameron Gordon
Economics 1 Honours	Assoc. Dean of Education, Dr. Dana Hanna
Macroeconomics 2	Assoc. Prof. Chung Tran
International Economics	Emeritus Prof. Martin Richardson
Economic Policy Issues	Emeritus Prof. Robert G. Gregory
Public Sector Economics	Assoc. Prof. Maria Racionero
Mathematical Techniques for Economic Analysis	Dr. Reza Hajargasht
Public Choice and Politics	Distinguished Prof. Keith Dowding, Dr. Shawn Treier

Beyond direct instruction, my roles as Associate Lecturer and Head Teaching Assistant involved coordinating courses, managing course structures, supporting teaching assistants, and liaising between my teaching team and students to ensure a smooth learning experience. I have also handled sensitive academic cases requiring strict adherence to academic integrity while showing empathy towards students' unique situations. These roles have honed my interpersonal skills and deepened my commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment.

Conclusion

In all my teaching, I strive to promote curiosity, critical thinking, and a deep, lasting appreciation for economics. I see my journey as a teacher as one of mutual growth—not only for my students but for myself, as I have learned immensely from teaching others. My goal is to deepen students' understanding of economics and to equip them with critical thinking skills they can apply far beyond the classroom. More importantly, I aim to build their capacity and confidence to navigate the complex positive and normative dimensions of economics, to find genuine meaning and satisfaction in their learning, and to gain a richer understanding of the world through the economic lens, as I have.