**Teaching Statement**

David Vasquez

I have always enjoyed working with and interacting with people and have found the dynamic that exists on a university campus to be one of the most exciting there is. What draws me to this environment is the ability to interact with so many different people who are passionate about learning. During my undergraduate degree I began working with the OSU Athletics Department as a tutor and discovered my love for teaching.

During my master’s degree in the College of Engineering I was fortunate to be able to work as a Teaching Assistant for two professors in a number of classes. This opportunity led to one of the professors helping me design and instruct an entire course at the collegiate level. I still remember the first day very well and the many emotions of excitement but also how very nervous I felt. As I left my thoughts immediately went to how I could improve the next class, including ways to feel less nervous. I have grown a lot since then being able to design and teach multiple courses in the College of Business and College of Engineering and my desire to continually improve as an instructor has only grown stronger.

In my classes I strive to create an engaging, welcoming and inclusive environment. The most important aspect of a class is to make sure the students gain a deep knowledge of the subject matter but I have always worked to bring in other things important to students. Things like public speaking, communication skills and a focus on their careers. This was one of the reasons I was so excited about the opportunity to work as an instructor in the Blueprint Program as the four-year program aligns so well with my vision of what education should entail.

**Teaching Goals**

There are a few things that I view as foundational to my teaching style. These include creating a welcoming and inclusive classroom, creating engagement, teaching the material in a clear simple manner and assigning work in a way that focuses on learning. I know that it is not my job to entertain but I think it is incredibly important to plan every lecture to have a range of teaching styles and interesting things that will keep the classroom engaged and as much as possible excited to be a part of the class.

**How I Teach**

The methods that I use to teach have changed over time. I constantly work to evolve them to become a better instructor and create a classroom that is inclusive, welcoming and inducive to learning. One of the major shifts I made was moving away from relying on PowerPoint as I felt it was difficult for students to sit and listen and I could feel the classroom losing interest. I have taught a number of courses that were two hours long and feel this has shaped my instruction as these courses require much greater planning to be engaging then a shorter hour-long course.

I still design in depth power points of every lecture as a resource for students to have access to and take notes on. I then design each lecture based on the power points but use a range of teaching styles to help them learn the material. This includes utilizing the whiteboard, digital displays, in class activities and discussions. I also like to engage with the students and find moving around and getting to know them while they work on smaller group work to be very effective in improving the classroom dynamics and helping them feel comfortable speaking out. I realize the Blueprint classes are large but even in large classes do my best to make a connection with every student.

Another important aspect of what has shaped my teaching style is that I am a slow learner and remember clearly being lost or confused in difficult classes. I often need to ask things multiple times or spend extra time reading and finding outside resources. This experience is fresh in my mind as I was faced with a steep learning curve when I began my role as a Software Engineer at Amazon. From my experience I have found that learning is often done on complex things by presenting the simplest clearest explanation to demonstrate a concept. From this I have shaped my teaching style to present concepts in a simple way and then apply them to more complex problems after the class has a foundational level of understanding. I understand students learn at different rates and always make myself available during office hours or other times to make sure everyone in the class has the opportunity to do well. I also think that reinforcement is important and can not think of any area of learning where some level of repetition is not needed. Because of this I don’t just present material once and then move on I continue to incorporate past lessons and what we have learned into the current material so that the whole class is able to have a repetition of some of the most important concepts.

**Evaluation and Work**

From gaining degrees in both business and engineering I have thought a lot about the teaching methodologies used by successful instructors in both of these fields. I have modeled a lot of the techniques I use from the courses on teaching I have taken and what works from classes I have been in. I use this learning when it comes to designing the work and tests for the class. I put in a lot of time to make sure assignments are thoughtful and geared towards learning.

I also put a lot of thought into designing testing material that fairly represents what is taught in class. I do not thing students should be exposed to a new type of problem for the first time on class. For instance if it was a basic math class if we had only covered addition I would not add a subtraction problem until I had taught that concept. I do like to check the depth of students knowledge so may have a problem that covers the addition of four numbers after I had walked through the addition of three numbers and given an assignment for hands on practice of this. Finally, I like students to feel prepared for big tests and work to eliminate as much stress as I can. I always will do a review session before hand and let them know the important topics to focus on.

I also like to help students be aware of campus resources and events going on. During the start of each class I usually will go over what we will be covering and bring up any other things. I will let them know about important resources like the Basic Needs Center, career resources and other departments on campus and how much they can benefit from these resources.

**Conclusion**

On my recent review the Dean wrote, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” I was excited to receive this feedback as it is something I strive towards. If selected to work in the College of Business I would work hard to support students through this challenging process. My goal as an Instructor would be to help students excel in the Blueprint program and how incredibly important it is to their own individual lives and careers.

**NOTES**

There are a number of things that I view as foundational to how I teach and my goals for the classroom. I work hard from the first day of class to create a warm and welcoming environment. I also work hard to create clear learning objectives and create ways of testing students knowledge that are fair.

During my lectures I try to keep things engaging by moving around the room, pulling up different resources, writing on the whiteboard or even sitting down and creating a more informal discussion atmosphere. I also have in class activities that allows students to work with other students. These activities encourage hands on learning and allow me to take time to sit down and get to know the students one on one as they work in their groups. These activities also allow me to gauge how well students are learning the material. Finally, I like to encourage students to speak up and contribute and often have short student presentations that allow them to gain public speaking skills. At the end of every class I keep notes about what went well, what could be improved upon and ideas for the next class.

I still remember well the first day I was able to teach a course at the Collegiate level which was a difficult Physics course. What I mostly remember was how nervous I was and how exhausted I felt afterwards. I also remember how much I loved it and immediately began writing notes of how I could do better during the next lecture. My teaching style is something that constantly evolves and my desire to do better in creating a welcoming, inclusive and engaging environment for students to learn has grown stronger.

**TEACHING**

Kindness and love or two of the most important things to humanity I firmly believe that

Of course taking in consideration our basic needs like food and shelter and warm

And I think that diversity and inclusion is really rooted in those fundamental truths of humanity.

I believe that people can be led astray but with proper instruction it is easy to understand how we should act and treat others

I am clear about learning objectives

I like to write fare tests

I build a strong foundation and make sure everyone understands

I go back and review what we’ve already learned

I believe you should teach students need to learn it shouldn’t be challenging them to figure out what you want them to know I should be clear from the start the objectives and why they are important and how we are going to learn them

I think that it is really important to understand students learning styles and teaching methodologies because the important part is conveying the information and getting to understand it on their own.

Some thing that is really important to me I think that is it I have always been somewhat of a slow learner. And I feel like in my life I have always been thrust new situations where I have had somewhat of a significant learning curve I am currently working as a software engineer at Amazon the information security teams. It is going well but the learning curve has been staggering and everyone on my team is incredibly eager to help but they have not been very good at explaining things.

I also remember very clearly what it is like being in class when a teacher moves fast or doesn’t cover things and so I think I have adapted my style from feedback I’ve heard from students and peers of how to make students feel welcome and eager to learn. For example there are a number of things that I do I always start a course and make sure the students understand from day one kind of a roadmap of what we are learning how it fits together and why it’s important. I also will point out foundational things that our needs necessary to do well and that we will be building a pond. For instance in accounting you would necessarily need to know the three types of financial statements and they are not necessarily something you can gloss over but you need to understand them to move forward. To me when I see these foundational things I also go out of my way to make sure the students understand them and I test and write and speak to students in a way that I can get a feeling that everyone is able to move forward together. I also encourage questions I will never ever. The other thing that I do is even if a student gives an answer that is incorrect I always will respond pointing out the good things of what they have said and then provide the practical answer in a positive way making them feel good about speaking up and positive about the interaction I think that is incredibly important goal is always to build up students and to help them to feel comfortable and welcome and the fact that they are engaging is incredibly important to me. In fact the process of engagement I think it’s so important that it’s OK if they weren’t sure about the correct answer is. Some other things that I’ve done but I think are in Porten is I also go back and recap for instance if we were learning simple math and we learned addition and subtraction and we’re moving on to multiplication I would go back and review addition and subtraction and keep building so that students learn to repetition I also like to keep things as simple as possible and expand upon it although I have found this can be some more of an effective teaching tool in engineering computer science or physics-based concepts.

The environment that I work to create in the classroom is a warm and welcoming one. I do my best to find some thing in my teaching that interests all of the students. To me I always enjoy seeing how the classroom dynamics change from the first day when I am a little nervous and the students are not knowing what to expect until a week or two into the term when the environment has gotten so much more comfortable. I do start on creating this environment the first day spending time talking and making sure everyone knows what we will be doing.

It is also incredibly important to me that the students learn the material I think the testing and quizzes and the traditional teaching methodologies of measuring learning are important but to me they are not the end hall and that I am willing to adapt as the classroom goes to make sure everyone is learning. One thing that I will do though is anytime I make a change I make sure that it will benefit all students and be something that everyone is comfortable with. For instance one time I had a test and afterwords realized it was probably too hard and I did not appreciate the questions.

I do have questions about timed tests

I do think that for a classroom sometimes having traditional midterms and finals is a good way of judging a large group of students knowledge of the material. However for me I want them to be reflective of what we learned they do not try to surprise students or have trick questions I’d like to clearly teach what is needed and also if there is supplemental reading make sure the students know what areas of the reading I will focus on. I will sometimes have harder tests that might engage students ability to crank critically think a little bit more deeply about the subject matter and show that they’ve connected certain pieces that exist but I will not spring new material and it is Michael and I let the students know I never want them to walk away from a test feeling like there was some thing on there that was not covered I don’t think that’s fair and I feel my role as a teacher is to inspire passion in the subject material and also to teach it it doesn’t seem.

Also something I have learned about myself is that I genuinely love helping people get something that makes me happy and I really enjoy social interaction. I think that this comes through in my teaching and that I genuinely love to get to know the students and support them I feel that their ability to do well in the class it’s mainly my responsibility and that I should encourage them and give them meaningful work and things that make them feel that they are trying to learn. As I teach a class I constantly adapt and usually keep notes in my phone or I will write down how things win or throughout the week at ideas I have or things that I would like to incorporate these generally ship pending on the students in the class in the current dynamics. Part of the reason I have started looking for a position like this is that I feel it in suffer engineering I am not able to interact with people as much as I normally would like to

There are three things that have shaped my teaching style

Creative Albert center teaching software engineering good teachers being self taught human services resource center

I think that there are three things that have really affected my teaching style and would make me an ideal fit for this role in the college of business. The first one is that while a graduate student pursuing my MBA I worked at the career development center. I work with students and employers including being the leader of founding or advisory board with companies like target Boeing and the boys and girls club and United Way. This gave me a unique perspective into the career development process for students and the steps that students need to start taking in order to find a career that they enjoy and love. I think the sooner that students start to think about career options and learn about them the more that they cannot only just find a job when they graduate but they can find some thing that they love doing which is incredibly important. When I graduated I was able to stay on and worked there for another year getting valuable experience.

The second thing is that before I started my job with Amazon I worked for almost 2 years at the human services resource center learning about the unique challenges and needs that student face outside of the classroom. I also learned about the mini resources available to them like our textbook lending program basic needs navigator the financial aid office the OSU bookstore. I was able to learn about not only the services that we offer with them any other resources that are offered around campus. All I do not know yet all of the duties of this role I am passionate about teaching and also student engagement helping students to become involved. How these things have helped shape my teaching style is that even in classes that might not be related at all to these types of things I would like to still provide resources for students about things happening on campus areas that they can get help and also allow them to think about their future careers I think it helps and that I am able to bring them up over the course of a term as I teach and remind them of the importance of these things.

I also am continually trying to learn and adapt my teaching style one of the major shifts that I made when I first began teaching was that I noticed when I had PowerPoint lectures and stood and talked off of them the whole class I lost everyone’s interest generally fairly early on and I did not like that. I began incorporating. Now I have adapted a new style where I still have well laid out power points to go over everything important that we are going to cover for the day but I saw them pull them up and instead provide them as a resource and outline for the students now what I generally will do is that I will create an outline at the beginning of the day on the left side of the board and then we will cover this with a range of different things I might pull up a PowerPoint for a little while if it is necessary I will use the whiteboard in class activities discussions and a range of things but I primarily use the whiteboard and the family engagement is much higher and as a side note it has helped me to improve my writing skills which I found a really messy from typing things out on computers

I create a lecture plan for every class and I also keep notes throughout the week of what is going well and what I can improve and I feel that has greatly improved how each class goes as they adapt

Some thing else that has had a profound ass profound and effect on my teaching style is that I feel I have always been somewhat of a slow learner. I remember Wells sitting a number of challenging classes and feeling lost and struggling to understand the homework. Currently in my role as a Software engineer I am faced with some of the same challenges as I am working on complex systems that often feel like they are over my head. Luckily I have been able to adapt and do well and was excited just to receive congratulations from my manager and team for an on boarding process that I took over it was not going well and was able to fix. I think that because of this it has made me a very patient and empathetic teacher I love to explain things and would much rather have. I love when students stay and ask questions or need help I try to keep the class as clear as possible but also look for one on one with students who might not be understanding a particular topic I also try to be sure I am as clear as possible and use simple examples and not move too fast. I found often in engineering that if someone can explain the topic in the most simple way possible then it becomes easy to apply it to other complicated more complicated problems and systems. I think that the style of learning is really good laying a foundation and using small pieces and then building upon that.

Finally I am always trying to learn and grow as a teacher I love the community in the college of business and would love to learn from the other current student engagement faculty faculty in the career success center and also the numerous faculty in the college of business score so kind and nice. This is a community that I would be proud to be an instructor in.

Another aspect of my teaching style is that I think a lot about any assignments or work that is given in the class. I put a lot of time and thought into making sure that anything the students are working on really helps to contribute to their learning and understanding of the material or has a deeper and useful learning purpose. I also try to alleviate some of the stress that can come with taking tests like midterms and finals by making sure the students are prepared and always do at least half of a class for preparing before a midterm and final going over what we far and what could be on there and giving them ideas of how they should study and what is important. I don’t think that a test should ever be a complete surprise if you’ve been coming to class staying up on the work and paying attention.

**ORIGINAL**

I feel that being an effective teacher means being centered on student success and creating a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. I also feel that effective teaching is engaging and exciting and allows students to have fun. A lot of the courses I have instructed have been longer than two hours so I have worked hard to create classes that utilize a range of learning techniques and engaging material to allow students to learn and enjoy being in class. In the day to day of teaching this means getting to know the students, supporting them and teaching material in a clear and easy to understand manner that allows every student the ability to master the subject. I also view effective teaching as providing timely feedback on tests and homework that aligns with what has been taught.

I have developed my view of effective teaching through my experiences as a student, teaching assistant, instructor and software engineer working in industry. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant I began to observe which classes I loved the most and began learning not just the material but also what it was these effective teachers did differently. When I taught my first class I realized how much I loved it but also how challenging it was. Since then I have continued to work to improve through taking graduate level teaching courses, speaking with professors and learning on my own through books, published research and online resources.

There are a number of ways that I work to be an effective teacher. For me it starts with planning engaging material and activities that promote learning and critical thinking skills. I work to build an inclusive and accepting classroom from the first day by having students interview and introduce a peer. During the weekend I will review the course material and create a teaching plan with a range of activities for the coming week. For example we might discuss Airbnb’s decision to move from React Native to fully native or watch a short startup pitch and discuss their finances or technology stack.

During my lectures I try to keep things engaging by moving around the room, pulling up different resources, writing on the whiteboard or even sitting down and creating a more informal discussion atmosphere. I also have in class activities that allows students to work with other students. These activities encourage hands on learning and allow me to take time to sit down and get to know the students one on one as they work in their groups. These activities also allow me to gauge how well students are learning the material. Finally, I like to encourage students to speak up and contribute and often have short student presentations that allow them to gain public speaking skills. At the end of every class I keep notes about what went well, what could be improved upon and ideas for the next class.

On my recent review the Dean wrote, “You do a wonderful job creating an open, welcoming, supportive atmosphere. It’s clear your students feel at ease.” I was excited to receive this feedback as it is something I strive towards. If selected as a Project Instructor I would work hard to support students through this challenging process. My goal as a Project Instructor would be to help students excel in the software development, technical and writing components of their project in a way that would allow them to leverage this experience as they move forward in their careers.