

Teaching Statement

Jose Rojas-Fallas

University of Oregon

I view teaching and mentoring as a great privilege given to us by the profession. At the University of Oregon I have been the sole instructor of record for many different economics courses, from Intermediate Microeconomic Theory to International Economics. I have also led discussion sections more direct engagement with students and the ability to cater material in a more personal manner. Outside of the university setting, I have also taught mathematics classes in Spanish to adults seeking their GED. All in all, I very much enjoy the teaching experience at all possible levels. It is a challenging and fulfilling task.

I understand the field of economics to be a way of thinking about the world. This luckily affords us many different viewpoints and methods to answer important questions. As a teacher, I do my best to help students understand the economics mindset along with the tools available to them; so that they can apply it beyond the classroom. My main goal is to make the dense economic theory digestible, and link it to the real world through examples or in-class activities. By using contemporaneous or recent world events, the economics becomes relevant and personal. I motivate class engagement either through open-ended questions, brief work time on class material, or in-class activities that relate to course topics. In both my international economics and development economics courses, I have the class engage in group activities which recreates a world market with resource and productivity endowment differences or explore exchange rates through bidding on scarce resources. Students have responded well to these activities, being able to directly link theoretical knowledge, such as comparative advantage or endowment differences, to tangible experiences. Encouraging students through active participation keeps the class engaging and makes the lectures interesting throughout the entire course.

Additional to teaching, I appreciate the opportunity of advising and mentoring students. In my time as an undergraduate I had an incredible mentor who help guide and advise me on

how to best reach my own goals. His mentoring role is a significant part of why I sought to obtain a PhD in economics and I hope to do my part in guiding future students and economists.

Every teaching experience has been unique, giving me great joy and also allowing me to learn from students. I fully expect that future teaching and mentoring experiences will make the journey worth the effort. I look forward to developing my pedagogy as an Assistant Professor.