

## ShuNing Lin

### Teaching Philosophy

I believe academic expectations should apply individually on each student. Not everyone comes in to the class with same intention, then grade policy should be designed equally fair for everyone. It sounds easy but hard to modify considering each student's ability. It is very important for teachers not to react simply based on grades. Self-improvement matters more. A teacher is hired to provide guidance on students, to help them know about themselves in many ways. When a student has an average score of 80, then an outcome 85 should be cherished. An impossible goal would only discourage students from learning.

Needless to say, a teacher should know students' learning strategies earlier. If not, then they should help them to explore. Students' performances depend on teacher's expectations and appropriate learning skills. When I know a student's average performance and needs, then I can adjust attitudes for both of us. For an "80" student, there is no need to pressure him to aim for 100 from beginning. It will only bring unnecessary stress which could lead to lower performances. Using my experience as student and athlete, a high achieving student needs to know they do have a chance to make mistakes. As a matter of facts, life is composed by series of mistakes. It is more important for them learn from mistakes, and avoid to repeat them. The odds for the whole class to fail or receive 100 is equally small. Therefore, a teacher and students should set a reasonable goal for themselves at the beginning of the semester, so that they can reduce their stress to minimum.