

## Teaching Statement

Throughout my academic career, I have been fortunate to have abundant opportunities to teach a diverse range of students, from non-Economics majors to Economics doctoral candidates (please refer to my [curriculum vitae](#) for detailed information). These experiences have led me to adopt two guiding principles: providing tangible goals throughout the course and continually adjusting to meet students' needs.

Prior to joining Duke University as a doctoral student, I worked for three years as a lecturer in Economics at the Korea Military Academy (KMA) to fulfill my mandatory military service. In this position, I was privileged to teach cadets—future military officers. Teaching in this unique environment gave me the opportunity to work with highly disciplined students who valued clear objectives and concrete outcomes.

My experience at KMA laid the foundation for my goal-oriented teaching approach, which I have continued to refine at the Florida State University (FSU). For example, in my current courses, I provide exercises to be completed after every lecture. These exercises are designed to reinforce the day's material. One student noted, "*the exercises were very beneficial for the instructor and helped me throughout the semester.*" This feedback reflects my commitment to ensuring that students leave each class with a clear understanding of the key takeaways and tangible steps to deepen their comprehension.

Additionally, in my econometrics class, I take this approach further by assigning a final project that requires students to synthesize everything they have learned throughout the semester. This project not only challenges them to apply their skills in data analysis and interpretation, but also provides for them to gather data independently. As one student commented, "*we also had a final project that put everything we learned together, which was very valuable to connecting all of the concepts that we had been working on throughout the semester.*" These structured, goal-oriented tasks ensure that students have clear objectives

and measurable milestones, both in their daily learning and in their overall understanding of the course.

While setting clear objectives is essential, these goals must be realistic and appropriately challenging for students. If the objectives are too difficult to achieve or too easily attained, they lose their value as learning tools. This insight has led me to embrace a second guiding principle: the need to continually adjust my teaching based on students' needs. Each group of students is different, and it's critical to ensure that the goals I set are both attainable and stimulating, while providing the necessary support to help students succeed.

In line with this principle, I make a conscious effort to stay attuned to students' progress throughout the course, adapting my teaching methods when needed. I am always available for questions outside of class and provide extra help when necessary to ensure students are not left behind. As one student reflected, "*Professor Kim was very understanding and was always available for extra help whenever students needed it.*" By maintaining open communication and offering personalized support, I strive to create an environment where every student feels empowered to meet the goals we set together.

### **Selected Student Comments**

"Loved how thorough the course was and how kind Dr. Kim was during the entire course. Absolutely excellent by every metric."

"YG was an excellent professor and provided everything needed to succeed. His projects and in class assignments were great and stimulated my interest. His use of R studio was clear and he was understanding of the fast paced semester."

"Professor Kim showed a distinct understanding of the course material and displayed it during class when answering questions from students and explaining concepts."

"His overall teaching method was wonderful. I liked how he would reiterate what we have learned at the beginning of each class."

"Loved taking his class. It was hard, but he gave us the tools we needed to succeed."