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Cultivation to the mind is as necessary as food to the body - Cicero

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## Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Before beginning on any teaching-related endeavor, I always ask myself one question: if I was in the audience, would I fall asleep? It may seem like a silly question to ask, but how many of us can truthfully say that we have never been made to feel sleepy, bored, or just plain uninterested by a teacher? I strive to be the most interesting, informative, entertaining, and educational teacher that my students will ever have in college. I do this by keeping several key components in mind while teaching.

I believe that one learns by being actively engaged in the learning process, rather than being only an observer. For me, this means incorporating a variety of both in-class and out-of-class activities that force the student to become engaged in the material. This can include in-class writing assignments on hot news topics, encouraging students to relate topics to events in their lives, and challenging students with out-of-class assignments that force them to do more than regurgitate information in paper form. By being reactive rather than passive, both the students and I gain more from the experience.

Related to feeling that learners need to be active participants in their education, I do not see teachers as merely being deliverers of knowledge. Instead, I see the activity of teaching as a two-way street. I look forward to learning from my students as they learn from me. Each student brings her or his own unique life experiences into the classroom, and integrating those experiences with the material I am presenting can lead to more productive learning for both the teacher and student.

Technology plays an important role in my teaching. I feel that the goal of technology in teaching should be to make learning more interactive and more engaging to the student. I attempt to make learning enhanced through the use of technology, rather than shoehorning existing teaching methods onto a computer. This includes making course websites where students can easily access class notes, syllabi, lecture downloads, online quizzes, online forums, and more.

For me, teaching is one of the most rewarding activities that I can imagine. Not only am I able to engage in what is, for me, an exciting and enjoyable activity, but I get to do this for a living!

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