

Teaching Philosophy

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I have always considered teaching an essential part of academic life, and I have devoted a lot of effort in it. I made teaching assistance at University for more than four years and furthermore I taught in an Italian Scientific High School.

I strongly believe that students do not have to simply *know* a subject but they must *understand* it. The ultimate goal of a teacher should be that any student deeply understands the topic. I carefully prepare any my lecture in advance, and I usually present a lot of examples, counter-examples and exercises. Explaining a mathematical theorem I always point out why all hypotheses are mandatory, and I exhibit counter-examples which arise when hypotheses are weakened.

In my humble opinion the worst evil flaw for a teacher or a speaker is to *bore* the audience: students can effectively and fully understand a topic only if they find it interesting and enjoyable.

I encourage students to ask questions during my lessons and I promote interactive lectures. This forces students to stay up and give me a feedback about my lesson which I can helpfully use to calibrate and adjust my lecture, and better understand my students' level, needs and concerns. For instance, some students may be shy or have weaker capacities and need intensive individual help and constant monitoring in order to develop their skills and knowledge.

In my humble opinion, students of a good teacher should be charmed and hooked by *mathematical beauty*.

I always try to create a friendly atmosphere in class that makes students feel quite comfortable, and it is absolutely conducive for doing math. Students at any level do not need only a mathematical teacher but also an educator who understands and helps them.

My work with students is not finished with the bell, and goes far beyond the "lecture time". I am always available for further explanations or personal consultations during office hours or immediately after the lecture, and I can always be reachable by E-mail to which I always promptly reply.

A good teacher must always be fair: I give to my students well-prepared assignments and tests, which have always to reflect what was taught in the course. Graded assignments must always be returned very promptly. I strongly encourage attendance to my lectures, because in this way learning is much more efficient and not time-consuming.

I close by saying that I really enjoy teaching, and I always take the opportunity to learn from my students through their questions, doubts, remarks, observations and challenges, as well as they learn from me and my lectures.