Kory M. Garner

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

Anyone who has taught a class in economics knows that it presents challenges to which many other subjects are immune. Preconceived notions about the subject (for example: how boring it is, that economists only study the stock market, etc...) demand extra work on part of the instructor in order to properly impart the tools onto the students.

I would describe my teaching style as energetic. Many of my former professors would, in lecture, stand behind a lectern with a clicker moving through slides in a monotonic drone. This style of teaching is boring to students regardless of the material and my goal as an instructor is to be the total opposite.

In an effort to keep students engaged during lecture while simultaneously teaching them the material, I attempt to combine a highly-organized lecture with an approachable feel. I maintain a thorough notebook of the material I plan to discuss in class so as to ensure forward progress during lecture. Instead of using slides, I find that the "chalk-and-talk" method is more effective (particularly at the introductory levels). This pedagogy requires students to pay attention to every detail during lecture which helps them recall material as they study. As I write on the white board, I organize the notes on the white board as I have them in my notebook so that students have a built-in method for organizing the material in their notes. I have received multiple comments from students who appreciate the level of attention to detail I place on the lecture notes.

My individual nature is that of an extrovert and I try to bring this extroversion to the classroom. I have a loud voice that carries through a room and commands attention. Combined with an excitable nature, I attempt to keep students engaged and entertained throughout class. During class I introduce multiple ways for students to learn outside of a standard lecture. A few examples of methods I have used in the past include:

- Teaching the concept of downward-sloping demand by taking a vote during lecture
over the video game market

- Playing short clips from NPR’s “Planet Money” segment regarding Public Goods and the Health Care System.

- Providing time during class to work through problems in groups.

- Utilizing my area of specialization by playing simple experiments during lecture.

So far, I have acted as sole instructor of a course for only Principles of Microeconomics while at Purdue University. Also during my time at Purdue, I acted as a Recitation Instructor for a course on Principles of Economics (a course covering the principles of both microeconomics and macroeconomics). During my undergraduate years at Miami University, I started gaining teaching experience by acting as a Supplemental Instructor for both Principles of Microeconomics and Calculus I.

My teaching interests are in the areas of: Microeconomics, Game Theory, Experimental Economics, Behavioral Economics, Industrial Organization, and Mathematical Economics.