

Teaching Portfolio

Teaching philosophy I believe the fundamental goal of teaching is to motivate and to encourage learning. Learning takes place at many different places and in many different contexts. Basically everyone is capable of learning, but how we learn best is different from person to person. So the students have multiple learning styles: some learn best in lecture atmospheres, some are motivated by discussion, and others absorb best when they read and reflect on what they have read. As a teacher am I very aware of creation an atmosphere that fosters learning, and aware of using different teaching styles and methods. Accommodating different learning styles and methods creates an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. I focus on explaining (presentations), demonstrating (case studies), collaboration (group work) and learning by teaching (group presentations). I am very aware of activating the students mainly by fostering dialogues, class and group discussions. As a teacher is it important for me to convince students of my knowledge and expertise on the field before they will show a willingness to learn. I do that by showing a high level of engagement, passion and interest for the topics I teach from both an academic and a practical angle. I have hereby experienced that it have a positive influence on the students willingness to learn and be active during the lessons. Besides the actual teaching I also regard planning the teaching (lessons) as an important part of the overall teaching process. This process contains the selection of topics and literature, the structure of the lessons and securing the use of a variety of pedagogical approaches and methods. It is important that the concepts being presented are organized in a way that makes it easiest for the students to understand. As stated above learning does not only take place in the classroom. I regard the use of digital tools for the purposes of teaching as an important part of the overall teaching process. By using wikis and blogs as a part of my teaching I have with success created an online learning environment, which positively supports the more traditional classroom learning setting. Finally, I believe that respect for my students (which are coming from different cultures) is one of the most important things I can show not only to encourage their openness to the material I am presenting, but also to inspire them and to respect each other.