

Teaching Statement

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Here are the general rules that helped me to become a successful instructor through the years when I was teaching courses at Stanford and UCLA:

- update the class web page on time;
- present the students with clear grade break-downs on the first day of classes;
- assign homework in advance;
- come 5 minutes ahead of class to erase the blackboard and answer questions;
- use all means available (from color chalks to computer graphics) to better illustrate the ideas and concepts presented in class;
- establish a two-way dialog with the students in your class;
- face the students, not the blackboard;
- five-to-six quizzes in a quarter will improve attendance;
- be explicit when referring to examples or theorems in the textbook;
- provide access to exam solutions as soon as the exam is over.

Speaking from my own experience, here is what I found helpful especially when teaching upper division courses:

- introduce the concepts through problems and examples before formally defining them;

- find examples that can be used later to illustrate further points;
- show a broader picture! explain the meaning of the material presented in class from a more general perspective.

Letter of recommendation (teaching):

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