

Teaching Statement

Carlos Hurtado

I believe that learning is a process that can be supported by peers, and that my role as an instructor is to guide my students throughout the process of developing skills and new knowledge. In my classes, students reinforce their understanding of the material by working on individual or group assignments that use hands-on examples. I foster the critical thinking of my students with assignments that require analysis and integration of concepts. I encourage discussion during class, but I also offer alternative methods of communication to acknowledge the diverse background of people in the classroom. I seek to generate an environment that inspires undergraduates to develop a long-lasting interest in economics.

With my classes, I seek to transmit to students the set of skills they will need to develop a successful professional career. For that reason, I engage in classes that have a theoretical component with practical implications. My most recent class for undergraduates is "*Numerical Methods in Economics*." To explain this new elective in the department, I use an enthusiastic, engaging and challenging teaching style. My syllabus makes clear that I am available to answer questions in class, over e-mail, and during office hours. I understand that some people prefer to avoid participation in class because students are different, with diverse experiences and cultures. To clarify concepts without forcing participation during class, I hold regular office hours and additional office hours before exams. This method seems to be effective according to the attached student evaluations and email. As one student noted, "Your enthusiastic teaching style and all the opportunities for the classes really helped me out understanding the material."

I typically use lecture slides and a class web page to share the presentations. The slides reduce the time spent by students taking notes and allow them to focus more on the concepts. My students can review the material before and after the lecture. Some of them print the lecture presentation and take notes of the discussion directly on their printed copies. Some students describe in the attached evaluations how helpful slides are when working on assignments and homework. I believe that learning is an individual process and students integrate concepts at different speeds. I use the slides to ensure that students get the opportunity to review the material at their own pace. The web pages of my previous classes are freely available on my website to ensure that students can preview the material even before registering. They can also find previous years exams and homework assignments.

I assess students using classical examinations and assignments that aim to verify the understanding of concepts and encourage engagement in critical thinking. A few lectures before exams, I devote time from the class to review concepts, and I solve practice questions to clarify methods. The homework assignments have a balance between low-level cognitive skills such as retention or application of concepts and high-level cognitive skills that involve analysis, evaluation, and creativity. I devote extra effort to make sure that my grading is fair and agrees with the topics learned in class and the expectations from students. Students value the fairness of my grading.

I have previously taught classes in numerical methods, spatial econometrics, and game theory. I will be happy to teach courses in public economics, applied econometrics, urban economics, and real estate. I also welcome the challenge of teaching classes outside my primary fields.

Hurtado Martilletti, Carlos Arturo

From: Park, Byung Chang
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2017 8:04 PM
To: Hurtado Martilletti, Carlos Arturo
Subject: Econ 490: Thank you for your instructing for the semester!

Dear professor Hurtado,

Hi,

My name is Byung Chang Park (UIN: 654672560)

I am writing email to thank you for your awesome lecture for the semester!

Starting of the semester, I had really tough time with keeping up with the exam.

However, your enthusiastic teaching style and all the opportunities for the classes really helped me out understanding the material and ultimately learning about the python programming !

For 4 years of studying in U of I, you were actually a real professor/instructor who actually willing to spend time with their student and want us to learn out of the class rather than just doing the job.

I will always thank for your enthusiasm and your instructing method!

Have a wonderful holidays and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sincerely yours,
Byung Chang Park.

<p>A</p> <p>What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?</p>	<p>Office hours were very beneficial. He made sure we understood what we were doing rather than give answers.</p>
<p>B</p> <p>What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?</p>	<p>Learning python was great, that was the reason I took this course.</p>
<p>C</p> <p>What do you suggest to improve this course?</p>	<p>Add examples of when we would use concepts learned and why we need to know them. Cover what exams will be like so students know what to expect / how to study.</p>
<p>D</p> <p>Comment on the grading procedures and exams.</p>	<p>Grading seemed fair!</p>
<p>A</p> <p>What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?</p>	<p>Good explanations on questions asked, straight-forward guidances, helpful & productive office hours</p>
<p>B</p> <p>What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?</p>	<p>HW assignments, learned a lot through the process!</p>
<p>C</p> <p>What do you suggest to improve this course?</p>	<p>Exam structure (offer more questions so minor mistakes on one problem won't kill the grade)</p>
<p>D</p> <p>Comment on the grading procedures and exams.</p>	

<p>A</p> <p>What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?</p>	<p>Instructor listen to student and try to feel the empty spaces with on office hour.</p>
<p>B</p> <p>What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?</p>	<p>Instructor is really helpful!</p>
<p>C</p> <p>What do you suggest to improve this course?</p>	<p>Not only theoretical stuff, but I also hope instructor go over actual example to explain it</p>
<p>D</p> <p>Comment on the grading procedures and exams.</p>	<p>fair!</p>

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<p>A</p> <p>What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the instructor?</p>	<p>Creating Powerpoint presentation that explained the information in details was amazing. Also, doing example of the material was also helpful. Going over what you were looking for homework was quite helpful.</p>
<p>B</p> <p>What aspects of this course were most beneficial to you?</p>	<p>Learning how to code the optimization in python using economic was quite useful.</p>
<p>C</p> <p>What do you suggest to improve this course?</p>	<p>Try to make the material look less complicated by recommending students to take some kind of math class that will help them the concept better.</p>
<p>D</p> <p>Comment on the grading procedures and exams.</p>	<p>Grading was very fair.</p>

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