

Jun Duanmu

## Statement of Teaching Philosophy

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Instructors play a fundamental role in supporting the intellectual and professional development of students as well as in connecting the academic world and real societies for the students.

My primary goals are to inspire and facilitate student learning through a rigorous, yet supportive academic environment, to help students develop the ability to apply finance principles and theories to real world cases, and most importantly, to offer them the ability to think differently, logically and creatively. Undergraduate students often possess limited subject knowledge prior to taking one of my courses, so it is my responsibility to develop their interest in the subject, provide them a base of concepts and skills that will facilitate future learning and intellectual curiosity, and teach them ways to synthesize information and ideas which will provide them life-long benefits. My intention is to enhance students understanding rather than their ability to memorize formulas for exams, and to focus on ‘how’ and ‘why’ theories work rather than on defining concepts. Instead of just conveying information, I seek to teach students how to apply what they learn. I take pride in helping students develop the ability to express their viewpoints succinctly, to explore innovative ideas, and to acquire the fortitude and research abilities to independently seek answers.

Secondly, I view effort as a major driving factor towards personal success, for both students and instructors. I always encourage my students to put effort in every class they take, and I strive to reward them for their efforts. In my class, I give points for attendance, and extra credit for distinguished class participation (i.e., challenging questions and intellectual class discussions), which is helpful for students in developing the attitude that is essential for both their college life and future career. As an instructor, I put great effort in developing well-designed courses and associated materials. Before every class, I will carefully review the materials to be covered, the questions that students might ask, and the outlines of the lecture. Besides the careful preparation before the class, it is also essential to be accessible to students by keeping regular office hours, embracing technological innovation, and finding new methods to make the material appeal to the students’ curiosity. In addition, routine communications with students for feedback, are great sources to evaluate my on-going class structure. I am always willing to listen to what students think, to get to know what they expect, as well as what they might not favor, in order to revise my future class design.

The most essential factor in teaching, I believe, is that people learn when they are active, when they are involved, e.g., debating, solving, talking, trying, working, and struggling. As an instructor, I seek to promote active learning in and out of the classroom. I prefer an ‘open’ class environment to a just traditional lecture. My definition for an ‘open’ class is a class that involves open discussions, co-operation, presentations, competition and ‘liberalizations’. ‘Liberalizations’ do not necessarily mean that students have the rights to do whatever they wish in class, but indicate a bundle of choices students could possibly pick. For example, I offer my students an option to not take the exam, if they show their unparalleled accomplishments in this class.

I fully understand that being a good educator takes diligence: a diligence that should be reflected in building a strong knowledge base allowing one to speak comfortably on a wide range of topics. It should be reflected by a desire to stay current in the topics under an instructor's mandate. This diligence should be reflected regardless of times of fiscal constraint or abundance. It should be reflected by a desire to undertake new challenges that broaden one's teaching experience. It should be reflected by efforts to collaborate with individuals or initiatives that can positively influence your abilities or goals. It should be reflected by efforts to interact with the audience. It should be reflected by a continued search for that perfect way of delivering an educational experience.

I strive continuously to improve my teaching ability and the content of my courses by staying well-informed of current trends and events in the area of finance.