I am very committed to excellence in teaching. I consider it the responsibility of the instructor to push the boundaries of the student’s knowledge, to encourage the student to think outside of the box to solve problems, and to help the student understand how this knowledge can be applied to the real world. It is by challenging previous held beliefs that we expand our understanding and increase our tolerance of individuals that are different from ourselves. I believe that students should be held to a high standard and should be challenged because it is when we are pushed that we grow the most.

It is important to complement the theoretical side with applications. Consequently, I use different strategies to allow students to apply their knowledge (e.g., problem sets, research papers, presentations, etc.). I am very dedicated to helping students discover the answers to their problems and making sure they have the knowledge necessary to carry out the task. However, it is a requirement that they put forth the effort and invest the time necessary to complete their assignments. While it is my responsibility to provide the students with the tools necessary to complete the project, it is the student’s responsibility to finish the task.

Nonetheless, I acknowledge that individuals are unique and, as a result, have different ways of learning. The classroom is a dynamic environment. Good teachers are able to identify the requirements of their students and adapt their methods to fit those needs. I strongly encourage students to ask questions regardless of how trivial they may believe the question to be. Not only does the student benefit from the question but there are external benefits to the class. Moreover, if the students are struggling to understand specific material I find alternative ways to communicate the topic.

I also encourage students to help their peers to understand the information. I believe that restating your knowledge to others helps the student to understand and master concepts. As a consequence, I welcome class participation because it not only edifies the class but it also helps the student explaining the material to truly grasp the information.

Finally, a good instructor is also a good student. That is, I believe that in order to be a successful instructor I must listen to my students and be willing to learn from them. However, I do not take my position as a lecturer lightly. I understand that part of my role as a professor is to give guidance, encouragement, and direction to students. Therefore, I also help and mentor students to the best of my ability. The opportunity to aid and direct others is what I love most about being an instructor.