

Teaching Philosophy – Denise T. Ogden

As a first generation college student, the goal of obtaining a college degree seemed a long-shot. Many teachers and mentors helped me succeed. Because of these individuals my teaching philosophy was born:

Make Course Work Challenging but Rewarding. My approach to instruction is to make course work challenging but rewarding. My courses have clear objectives and expectations. Pedagogically, I employ an experiential learning and student-centered approach in which lecture and activities are combined to stimulate students' motivation and desire to learn. The assignments are designed to encourage curiosity and creative thinking. Concepts are clarified by sharing personal, business, and research experiences.

Motivate All Students to Succeed. It is easy to motivate the over-achiever but not so easy to motivate the average or below average student. I strive to develop material that will get all students interested. For example, in the Negotiation course, several negotiation exercises are related to sports, even though I have a low interest in the industry. In another course, students have options on the assignment to choose for their semester project. When students are interested in course material they put forth more effort.

Embrace Diversity and Inclusion. As a diversity and inclusion advocate, I carry these tenets into the classroom. Inclusion means creating an environment that allows everyone to fully contribute. I strive to create an environment where every student is motivated toward success. Mutual respect is important. When a student is missing or not performing I connect with the student to get him/her back on track. By building relationships with students I am better equipped to recognize accomplishments and intervene when necessary to increase the chances of success.

Provide Tools for Success. Assignment rubrics help students pinpoint areas for improvement. I send weekly emails to help students prioritize work and understand expectations. Best practices and tips for success on assignments are shared. Depending on the class, a variety of assignments are used to increase understanding and assess performance and they include: (1) review of cases and articles (2) live case studies (3) project work (4) role plays (5) guest lecturers (6) field trips (7) competitions (8) oral presentations (9) simulations (10) research papers (11) quizzes and exams and (12) group projects.

Provide Out-of-Class Opportunities. In-class experiences are reinforced by out-of-class opportunities. Theory is combined with real world business environments because this approach forces students to apply what they are learning. In past years I have expanded student experiences through projects sponsored by companies and non-profit organizations and through participation in regional and national competitions. Students have designed marketing materials for non-profit organizations, suggested customer service strategies for retailers and proposed new product ideas for businesses. Students often use projects from my classes in their job search activities as examples of professional work.

In summary, *education is more than content*. It is the impact of one person on others. I take this role seriously and strive to be the teacher that students remember as not only teaching them but also impacting their lives in a positive manner. One of the joys of teaching is to witness a student develop from a shy, insecure student into a confident, knowledgeable and mature graduate. I love teaching. Each year another student achieves goals is precious because I know first-hand the value of education. Students have made me laugh, cry, cheer and smile. They have taught me to fully appreciate diversity and to hear all voices. Because of them I will be forever grateful.