What Works For Me!

Pawan Kahol
Associate Dean, College of natural and Applied Sciences
and Professor of Physics, Astronomy, and Materials Science
Student Comments-I

- Too much homework;
- an extremely difficult course;
- a lot of work;
- course was very demanding;
- an exceptionally hard course for me;
- a little out of my league;
- way too much material being covered in one semester;
- very hard class;
- too much subject matter!
• Dr. Kahol was available outside of class.
• I admire his dedication and enthusiasm that he brings every day.
• He was a very useful resource outside of class.
• Kahol was very supportive and he took time to motivate us.
• He is an awesome teacher; constantly challenging us and stimulating our learning, but course is a lot of work.
• Dr. Kahol did a good job explaining the course.
• It is a hard course and he was very willing to help whenever anyone needed it.
• Great instructor, fun course, but a lot of work!
• No class has challenged my thinking skills so highly besides the graduate level Political Theory Course I took in Spring.
• Made most of the course work easier to understand, but some course work was still a little tough to grasp.
• Very easy to understand concepts when he taught.
• Dr. Kahol understands the difficulty of the course and was very reasonable with this.
• He cares about students and is very knowledgeable in the material in the course.
• Presents the material very well, one of the best teachers I’ve had.
• Dr. Kahol has been a great professor, and has really strived to help his students understand the topics in class.
• Thank you for starting out every morning with beautiful stories about how our world works.
Student Comments-IV

• Created a very relaxed learning atmosphere.
• Dr. Kahol is a wonderful teacher and did a great job teaching the course and helping us develop the skills that we needed to be successful in this class.
• Does an excellent job of tying real world situations to the topics we explore in class.
• Dr. Kahol demonstrated a vast knowledge over the subject and a willingness to help out the students whenever he could.
• Professor Kahol does everything he can to give students the chance to be successful.
• Dr. Kahol is a very good professor and wants his students to do well.
• He made class a personal experience and made it a point to get to know each student’s name.
STUDENTS LIKE (and LEARN) WHEN A TEACHER IS

enthusiastic; dedicated; helpful outside of class; resourceful; motivating; challenging thinking skills; **stimulating learning**; easier to understand concepts; caring; organized; presents material well; relates subject matter to **real world**; creates **relaxed atmosphere**; develops skills to be successful; **knowledgeable**; makes class a personal experience.
Question for me!

Why do most students feel that way (positively) about me and about my teaching?

(Please don’t think that I don’t get negative comments)
Self Reflection of my teaching career

• I am not as bad as many others out there!
• I am not as good as many others out there!
• I am better than many others out there!
• I am good!

• I ought to be better! (This is what I have always felt about myself and this is what defines me as a teacher)
My teaching is based upon my efforts in

• Introducing concepts with more comprehensibility;
• providing a balance of quantitative reasoning and conceptual understanding;
• explaining a concept in many different ways;
• teaching skills to students that can be applied to physically realistic and sometimes abstract but useful situations;
• never losing sight of the “big” picture;
• keeping students interested and inspired;
• taking students toward logical thinking by being systematic;
My teaching is based upon my efforts in

- demonstrating how to utilize graphs, ratios, units, and many other tactics that must be successfully mastered;
- showing examples of assessing the reasonableness of answers;
- commenting on the significance of a solution and on its relationship to real life;
- staying enthusiastic;
- supporting an active and participatory learning environment;
- helping students as much inside the class as outside;
My teaching is based upon my efforts in

• integrating teaching and research;
• learning student names;
• articulating the reasoning for a given concept/topic;
• illustrating the use of visualization and schematic diagrams effectively;
• instilling creativity in developing strategies;
• always looking for and thinking about further improvements;
T^5 Rule

I tell students:
• what I taught them last time (T);
• what I am going to teach them today (T);
• I teach it (T);
• tell them what I taught them (T); and
• tell them what I am going to teach them in the next class (T).
C⁵ Rule

My teaching style is based upon the C⁵ rule:
  Commitment (C),
  Caring (C),
  Challenging (C),
  Currency (C), and
  Conviction (C),
Something To Never Forget

Never feel satisfied with or become complacent of your teaching

(Others may think that I am a good teacher, but I think I have miles to walk to get there!)
My Goal

Improve myself so that I can change for the better the way my students look at the universe! Am I able to do that? What matters is that I must keep trying. (I will retire the day I started feeling that I am not enjoying this profession... and that will take a long time!)