

Teaching Philosophy

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My duty is to guide students, inspire their creativity, and serve as a role model within my discipline. My teaching philosophy employs a three-tier system comprised of technical instruction, active learning, and critical thinking. This philosophy is expressed in methodologies that encourage diversity and expressive freedom.

In order for a student to express creatively, the student should first be aware of the functioning and limitations of the medium. I begin instruction with basic exercises that familiarizes the student with the fundamentals of the tools. A variety of techniques are explored and examined for both their attributes and for their limitations. As each new technique is addressed, previous techniques are reviewed. This process continues, and I encourage each student to employ these rudimentary exercises within the creative process. Exceptional knowledge of the tools will not make a great artist, but ignorance of these tools may prevent the realization of great art.

Throughout this process I encourage students to actively participate and explore a variety of solutions. I enjoy providing demonstrations, and I expect the students to not only observe, but to follow along as well. I encourage the student to seek out a variety of different approaches and assess each to ensure the most desired outcome. With this, the student adopts an attitude of exploration within the problem solving process.

The methodologies used to ensure this philosophy is inclusive to all learning styles include active participation, discussion, student-faculty interaction, and instructor demonstration. The students are made aware of how they will be assessed, and a rubric is provided for them communicating exactly what is expected.

I ensure a safe environment in which both success and failure can be a means towards growth. With guidance, enthusiasm and encouragement, the classroom becomes a community. Techniques and ideas are shared, criticism is exchanged, and a sense of camaraderie develops in an atmosphere of creativity, discovery and mutual respect. I believe that while I serve as the instructor, the students learn most from one another. It is my obligation to guide the classroom community in a direction fostering success for all.