

Teaching Philosophy Statement

Teaching has been a very vital part for me. Growing up I have always been told by my father that teaching runs in my blood as my forefathers were all high school principals and although the generation before me went on to become doctors and engineers, they still never miss an opportunity to present as guest lectures at universities. It was not until I was given an opportunity to be a teaching assistant at Iowa State University (ISU), where I was given the chance to independently teach classes, that I came to terms with my father's advice.

Teaching at ISU not only helped me understand how enjoyable interacting with students is, but also how comfortable and at ease I was while teaching. It has also made me recognize the importance of sharing the knowledge I have gained while continuing to learn from my students each day. In my opinion, teachers are the best and most powerful people in the world as they either make or break a student's life. I see myself as a person wanting every individual I come to interact with in class to learn, develop, and succeed to their best potential.

I currently teach AMD 178- Introduction to Apparel Design Studio at ISU, which is a lecture and studio based class. This course happens to be the core to developing ability to design and create with strong personal aesthetics. In this course students get to learn the elements and principles of design; the concept and process of design; color theory, technical drawing, fabric rendering and fashion illustration. The importance of an inspiration and target market each step of the design process.

I believe in an interactive class, where students discuss with the instructor when a lecture is being delivered and collaborate with their peers while working in group activities. It has been important to me to encourage students to work in groups while working on presentation boards/ assignments, especially outside of class. A design always gets better when you have multiple eyes looking at your concept and when constructive suggestions are provided by the viewer, rather than just the creator gazing at their work the entire time.

Every student is different (Hattie, 2008) and it is the job of the instructor to understand their students approach to learning and tailor it accordingly. Say for instance, during a class demonstration some student just watch and make mental notes, while other students take notes to refresh the process when away from class. Sometimes some students may need more than one demonstration to embed the process in their mind, for this reason, I make sure my teaching assistant video tapes my demonstration and uploads the video to a file sharing collaboration application, where students taking the course can revisit the process. I have found this technique to be extremely helpful to student's, especially in a studio based class.

When a new concept or assignment is introduced, I always explain the concept using slides for verbal learners and have made it a point to always document previous work of students to help as visual aid for visual learners. This has not only helped in the current class that I teach but other higher level classes (such as AMD 278- Fashion Illustration), I have taught earlier. I believe that there is always room for growth and improvement and thus always provide feedback to students on every project, while also installing confidence and comfort in student to interact with me for more in-depth feedback or further help. I make it a point for students to

reach me outside of class for more help. I ensure to do my homework each time before I teach as each semester is different, and the way I teach and demonstrate can always be improvisations, although this is my sixth semester teaching AMD 178.

I measure effectiveness of teaching, though the results of my student and how well they are able to carry forth and develop their initial concept into a bigger and better completed plan/ product. I always remind students the intensity of a design process but yet how it can be accomplished when working efficiently with time, flow and enjoying what you are working on.

I understand that criticism for any human being, paves the way for important and growth. This concept helps me do better every day and every time I step into a class room to teach. Over time I have understood and realized that is it difficult to impress all, but I think if you are good or capable of teaching you will surely see it manifest through your students work and student's evaluation on you as a teacher.

"Archana is not only knowledgeable and well versed in her craft, but is also an incredible teacher. Her contagious drive and passion for design inspires me and everyone around her." Fall 2016, AMD 178

"Archana is the only professor who I feel that I can be completely myself and make jokes around. Her authoritative yet sassy attitude helped me to learn in her class and is a reason why I enjoyed her class so much. It's obvious through her interaction with students that she cares about individuals learning and general well-being. Somehow she perfectly balance being a professional teacher and a relaxed confidante. I always appreciated her going the extra mile to give me individual feedback after class about assigned boards and sketching details. This class showed me how much I love the AMD major, design, and art. Lastly, this was one of my favorite classes so far at Iowa State and I never enjoy a class if I don't love the instructor." Spring 2017, AMD 178

"I learned so much in AMD 178 with Archana as my professor. She instilled a confidence in me that I continue to use as a designer! She pushed me to do my best work and I was amazed at how far I had come in my illustration skills in just one semester!" Fall 2017, AMD 178