

JONATHAN LOUIS GU

TEACHING STATEMENT

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I love teaching. I have led two sections of thirty students nearly every quarter for more than six years. By assisting so many lecturers with so many different teaching styles, I've learned that no one way of teaching works for every student. My teaching philosophy is simple: pay attention.

The most important quality any teacher can have is the ability to listen. As a teacher, I often find myself surrounded by many students, and it is tempting to hasten through answering their questions so that other students don't have to wait. Instead, it is better to listen to the question to discover why the student didn't understand.

Questions are information. Student questions inform me what ideas are challenging and what to put in the review session. I am relieved when students come to my office hours – their questions help me plan my lessons.

Every class has a timeline. My handouts detail key concepts and definitions. Undergraduates may not hang onto every word I say. The handouts serve as a guideline for when to ask, "Can you go over that again?"

I engage the students. My history in improvisational acting has added a kick to my teaching sections. Often, I will use a student suggestion as the central example of my class. I keep my lessons light-hearted by continuously highlighting real-world cases and short anecdotes from my personal life.

Jonathan Gu