

A Few Lessons I've Learned in 18 Years of Teaching...

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Lesson 1:

Organized, Fair, and Interesting!

- You may have all sorts of content and pedagogical goals... Your students may have big hopes for the class, too...
- But fundamentally, if you are **ORGANIZED, FAIR, and INTERESTING**, you and your students will mostly be happy.
- **If you don't do a reasonable job on these three, the rest of what you do doesn't matter.**
- **One Suggestion: Make a homework schedule and stick to it. Don't move things around. Don't overpromise.**



Lesson 2: Classroom as Active Learning Environment

- Teaching != Conference Presentation:
 - Standard lectures (ie powerpoint) can be powerfully dull.
 - Also not very effective at educating students.
- Need to keep students engaged and active
- Suggestion:
 - Nametags
 - Encourage student-to-student discussion, rather than being an intermediary.
 - If 100% shifting from all-lecture to all-discussion is too drastic, try gradual: **Insert discussion questions or 2-5 minute pair/group exercises in between every 20 minutes of lecture.**



Lesson 3:

The 90-10 Rule

- You can't become a perfect teacher in one term...
- And you may harm your sanity and your research if you try...
- Do an good-enough job on teaching at first, and then refine in subsequent years...
- **One Suggestion: After lecture, you'll have a million other things on your mind, but take 5 minutes to write down ideas for revisions next time you teach.**



Lesson 4: Stick with 3 Lessons!

- It's all they'll remember... 😊

1. Organized, Fair, Interesting.

2. Active Learning

3. 90-10 Rule

