

Teaching Philosophy

As a teacher my goal is to inspire, encourage, and support students in achieving their highest potential, and to challenge them in exploring and expanding their creativity while communicating their perspectives about life through art. My teaching philosophy focuses on helping students to cultivate a sense of engagement, develop as independent thinkers, and find their own voice.

The most effective classroom relies on many sources contributing to the learning process: the students, the teacher, the artwork, and the material brought in for consideration. I create a classroom atmosphere that is interactive and involves multiple forms of exchange that complement each other; for example, I use hands-on activities in lecture classes, and assign readings in studio classes. Students learn in a combination of different ways, and while a teacher cannot completely customize methods for each student, the qualities of listening, patience, and flexibility are of great importance in benefiting the largest number of students.

I have taught lecture and studio classes to a broad spectrum of students and in the most successful scenarios, students have developed ideas evolving from a lecture, discussion, or demonstration in their projects or used them to initiate further classroom dialogue. I believe it is important to provide students with a theoretical foundation for considering the larger context of the historical, philosophical, and cultural relevance of their art; reflecting on their relationship to the art world; and making connections between art and the conditions of societies.

I place equal importance on being well prepared, having a good grasp of the subject, and developing a comfortable working relationship with students. My objectives are to encourage students to contribute to the classroom knowledge base, express and contest ideas, engage in discussions, and be curious; and to create an environment for creative expression that challenges students to exceed their own expectations.