

Teaching Portfolio

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1 Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

During my time at UC Davis, I served as a teaching assistant for a variety of courses. The list of economics courses includes: Principle of Macroeconomics (twice), Principle of Microeconomics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, Public Microeconomics, Money and Banking, Industrial Organization and Economic Development. In addition, I worked for the Graduate School of Management as a Teaching Assistant for undergraduate accounting courses: Elementary Accounting (twice) and Managerial Accounting.

Table 1 displays the average student evaluations for all of the economics courses I served as a Teaching Assistant. In most years, I have generally placed over the department average, and I believe this demonstrates that I have been an effective teacher throughout my time as a teaching assistant. Table 2 displays detailed evaluations of my most recent three quarters as a teaching assistant.

Table 1: Teaching Evaluations (Scores out of 5)

Quarter	Course	Average Student Evaluations	Economics Department Average
Fall 2009	Intermediate Macroeconomics	4.4	4.22
Winter 2010	Intermediate Microeconomics	4.4	4.15
Spring 2010	Labor Economics	3.9	4.28
Summer 2010	Money and Banking	4.5	-
Winter 2011	Economic Development	4.1	4.23
Summer 2011	Principles of Macroeconomics	4.0	-
Fall 2011	Public Microeconomics	4.4	4.34
Winter 2012	Principles of Macroeconomics	4.5	4.27
Spring 2012	Industrial Organization	4.5	4.27
Summer 2012	Principles of Microeconomics	3.9	-

2 Statement of Teaching Philosophy

My current teaching philosophy has three components: Interpretation, motivation and approachability.

Economics is a social science, and social scientists can't hope to achieve understanding on mathematical solutions alone. Students can easily find themselves lost in solving complicated mathematical equations and become unable to give an economic interpretation for their solutions. To counteract this problem, I spent many hours preparing for discussion section by reorganizing the ideas that were taught during lectures, so that I could show students the bigger picture. I reviewed how the concepts from lectures connected to the mathematical machinery in their homework problems and encouraged students

Table 2: Detailed Teaching Evaluations from the Three Most Recent Quarters

	Industrial Organization	Principles of Macroeconomics	Public Microeconomics
	Spring 2012	Winter 2012	Fall 2011
	% Agree	% Agree	% Agree
The TA presents material in a clear and organized manner.	96%	92%	84%
The TA is responsive to questions.	96%	94%	90%
The TA is punctual for sections and office hours	100%	92%	93%
The TA is available and helpful to students during office hours	98%	94%	85%
The TA is responsive to difficulties students have in understanding the material.	92%	83%	90%
The grading was fair and timely.	96%	85%	87%

to think about the economic meaning of each mathematical solution. I strove to explain how each question was related to the general theory they learned in class and help them see which principles were involved and how.

- “The TA was helpful and organized overall.” - Economic Development, Winter 2011
- “Bo Young is an excellent TA. She’s very responsible, helpful, and well prepared. She did a good job in explaining the materials and homework. She deserves to be a TA.” - Economic Development, Winter 2011
- “Bo was a great TA. Reviewed everything /re-taught everything that was in lecture. Very clear and very organized. Great notes. Never needed to go to her office hours, but Bo was good with emails.” - Principles of Macroeconomics, Winter 2012

I found that relating the materials to real world issues was an effective tool in inspiring students to better understanding of the materials. For instance, to explain bond prices and interest rates, I brought up the US federal government credit-rating downgrade in summer 2011, an event which shocked many people. This motivated students to think about why Standard & Poor’s downgraded the US federal government’s credit rating and how the downgrade would affect interest rates and the bond prices of US treasury bonds. In order to help students organize their ideas regarding macroeconomic policies, I provided the familiar names of the person who was in charge of each policy. I stated that President Obama and Congress currently control taxes and government spending (that is, fiscal policy) while it is Mr. Bernanke with the Federal Reserve who controls monetary policy. This not only allowed students to

understand that those are two separate policies with different primary goals but also to effectively apply the knowledge they learned from class to the real world issues reported by the news and other media.

- “Bo Young was an excellent TA. She always had material ready for discussion and went over examples. She used the time wisely and went over what was confusing in lecture.” - Principles of Macroeconomics, Winter 2012
- “I liked how you walked us through the homework and give us examples similar to the teacher’s.”- Industrial Organization, Spring 2012

Another important aspect of my teaching philosophy is to make myself approachable and available to students in order to make them to feel comfortable asking questions. With such a large number of students in each section and a time constraint, it is hard to address all the questions during discussion sections. Students also often hesitate to ask questions in discussion sections due to fear of public humiliation. Therefore, I encourage students to use my office hours. In my experience, students feel less embarrassed to ask questions when in smaller groups, and I am able to adjust my teaching to an individual student’s understanding. If the regular office hours conflict with a student’s schedule, I try to take time outside of my regular office hours. E-mail is also an effective tool in assisting students due to its speed and convenience. I reply to student e-mails as soon as possible so that they know I am reachable outside the classroom when they want to study economics and encounter some difficulties.

- “Bo was punctual in discussion section, and for scheduled office hours. She was also able to meet with me outside her set schedule for office hours. During discussion the TA presents the material in a clear, organized, and timely manner. She is helpful, and willing to help us learn the course material. Overall the TA not only was a good resource, she was personable and approachable to speak to.” -Public Microeconomics, Fall 2011
- “Very helpful, really nice and easy to ask questions too.”- Industrial Organization, Spring 2012
- “I have been each TA’s office hours: they are amazing! Some of the best I’ve had at UC Davis. Always prepared and teaching relevant material. Very responsive to questions. Always willing to stay late or meet with students at another time if additional help is needed.”-Public Microeconomics, Fall 2011

I love to teach because I enjoy seeing students leave the classroom with additional knowledge and insight into economics. I look forward to improving my teaching style as I move forward through my future career. I would be interested in teaching courses in International Trade, Industrial Organization and Microeconomics.

3 Student Comments as Teaching Assistant

Below are highlights of students comments.

- Very helpful and knows her econ!
- Help a lot in TA hours. Explain materials clearly.

- Best TA I've ever had; going to discussion was actually useful.
- The discussion sections were invaluable. Couldn't have passed the course without this TA.
- Very effective in her teaching. Solid TA.
- Very thorough, concentrated on relevant material.
- She was very helpful. I loved her. She always did her best. Great office hours.
- Bo is a very approachable TA. She's very helpful answering homework questions and questions in the material. She returns graded homework in a timely matter, normally with several days after it's due, which is great because us students like to know how well or bad we did on the assignments. She grades fairly. She's overall a great TA and I would like to have her again in another class. She does speak too fast in discussion sometimes which is understandable; she has to go over a lot of material over a short amount of time. She does clarify when asked to.
- One of the best economics TA ever. She is extremely helpful during office hours and discussion. .
- Bo Choi did a great job! Section was a lot of help and I learned a lot.
- Really helpful TA.
- This was the most helpful discussion section that I had this quarter because we went over homework problems and actually reviewed the lectures.
- Bo was amazing! I learned so much in every discussion and she answered all my questions. :)
- The TA is very helpful.
- Bo Young, you're an awesome TA. You really helped me understand the material. Thank you!
- Sometimes she spoke a little too softly or went fairly quickly. However, there was a lot of material to cover, and she was well organized and prepared for discussion.
- Very helpful. Did good on explaining the material.
- TA was good.
- Good job. Delivered material to class clearly and covered all necessary topics.
- Good job. Valuable discussions.
- Bo was a good TA. She spoke clearly and was well-prepared. She was open to questions and her presentations were to the point.
- Bo Young always shows up early to discussion and is very helpful during office hours. My only advice would be to talk a little slower in section so students can take notes without missing anything you say.
- Section was very helpful in understanding the lecture material. One helpful tip for the TA would be to speak up because it was hard at times to understand.

- Bo Young did a good job. She came prepared and used her time with us efficiently.
- Bo Young is a very intellectual TA overall. She demonstrated her skills in teaching economics. There are ways she can improve her teachings, such as speaking slowly. At times, sections felt rushed and material on the board were erased before students finished.
- TA did an excellent job in explaining the homework. It was clear explanation than in the lectures. TA has a very good audible voice.
- Excellent TA. She was clear, helpful and on top of everything.
- Thank you for being a wonderful TA. I understand as much as I did because I went to discussion.
- TA did a good job.
- Thank you for review sessions! Good job!
- The review section is perfect. Bo Young is a great TA!
- Thanks!
- Bo-Young is an awesome TA! She is clear, concise, and even funny.
- Bo Young did a good job. She came prepared and used her time with us efficiently.
- She was very helpful and she actually care about the performance of the students. She also knew the material very well and she made sure students understood the material as well. Overall, she was the most helpful, nice TA ever.
- Everything I didn't understand, I learn again in her discussions. She's really nice and easy to ask questions. She makes things easy to understand and her points are short and sweet. She stays on topic.
- TA was great. Very approachable.
- She is organized and know the material well.
- Bo Young was a great TA. She was very responsive and helpful when I had any difficulties or questions. She explained everything very clear so I could have a better grasp of all the concepts.