

3 Lessons I've Learned in 15 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.
- **And 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.**



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Lesson 2: “PowerPoint = Boring”

- This is an ACTUAL quote from my teaching evals ~1999!
- Spurred me to introduce much more discussion and interaction into my courses
- Evals scores went from slightly above average, to very good.
- But it’s hard to go cold turkey...
- **One Suggestion: Lecture 20-30 mins, then pose a 2-5 minute pair/group exercise. 2-3 of these per lecture.**



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Lesson 3: The 80% 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 “80%” job on teaching at first, and save refinements for later...
- **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.**



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Lesson 4: Stick with 3 Lessons!

- It's all they'll remember... 😊

1. Organized, Fair, Interesting.
2. "PowerPoint = Boring"
3. "80% Rule"



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