

Teaching Statement

Anton A. Cheremukhin

People learn to read by reading. People learn to write by writing. They learn to think by... thinking. My teaching strategy can be summarized in three words: *learning by doing*. In class presentations the teaching method I use is to describe a question, approaches to think about the question, and walk the students, step by step, through the way different people think about answering that question. I often structure class presentations in a format of Plato's dialogue by posing open questions and letting the students try to answer them. This makes students curious and inspires independent thought. It also helps to keep everybody on the same track and facilitates attention. The same teaching strategy applies to homework and papers. To be able to solve a problem in an exam or write a paper I always give students an opportunity to do similar exercises and learn from feedback.

A prerequisite for the learning process is the desire to learn. I believe that curiosity is the main driving force behind learning. I raise interest in a question by providing numerous applications and by discussing examples from everyday life. Another motivation is time. Boredom and lack of interest come mainly from inefficient time use or unclarity. I try to explain an idea in the simplest and briefest possible way, and then restate it in different other ways. Understanding new ideas is unimaginable without breadth and clarity of the explanations.

I have learned a lot from the teaching experience I have. My communication skills can be improved upon quite a bit further. In the future I view teaching as an invaluable source of improvement and learning for myself.

I can teach most standard economics and finance courses. I am particularly interested in teaching macroeconomics, international economics and econometrics.

Teaching Evaluation

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Summary Statistics

Course	Quarter	Mean (out of 9)	Median (out of 9)
ECON 201 Theory of Firm and Consumer Choice	Fall 2006	8.12	9
ECON 102 Macroeconomic Theory	Fall 2007	7	8
ECON 202 Business Cycles	Winter 2008	7.25	8
ECON 102 Macroeconomic Theory	Fall 2008	7.53	7
ECON 102 Macroeconomic Theory	Winter 2009	8.38	9
ECON 102 Macroeconomic Theory	Spring 2009	7.64	8

Selected Student Comments

"Very smart." (December 2006)

"(...) helped explain the material in multiple ways to teach and expand on lecture ideas." (December 2007)

"Great Job, keep up the good work!" (March 2008)

"Viva el Anton! (...) please make him a tenured professor immediately." (March 2008)

"(...) went above and beyond by making himself available outside of class." (March 2008)

"Perfect! Few TAs can possibly compare." (March 2008)

"Very knowledgeable of material. Able to clearly explain any answers to questions we had" (March 2008)

"Complemented lectures greatly" (December 2008)

"(...) is very organized, teaches well, and cares about students learning" (March 2009)

"Very helpful (...) went out of his way to help us with problems we had" (March 2009)

"(...) is very caring and makes sure that students understand everything before moving on to the next topic. He is passionate in teaching." (May 2009)