

Teaching Statement

Krishna Bhargava Vangapandu

Teaching Computer Science is one of the wildest dreams that I ever had. I believe I have what it takes to become a good teacher. My education has the needed diversity that a good teacher should possess so I do understand what a student wants from his teacher.

Like all the great teachers out there in the world, I do believe in the learning outcome rather than covering huge syllabus. I believe that no matter how much you teach, all that matters at the end of the term is “are you able to transfer some knowledge to at least 90% of the class?”. I believe in a hands-on approach and as much as possible I “demonstrate” concepts. So if it is the programming course I teach or a Systems course, I like to show my students snippets of code and explain how things work, how they are supposed to work, how to make them work the way they are supposed to. I always try to put in as much effort as I can and I do expect the same from my students. The only way they can demonstrate this is by being regular in their submissions, performing well in the exams.

I love to teach courses that can help students differentiate themselves from others. A computer science student is supposed to have a sound knowledge of an Operating System, both its internals and hands-on. He/She should be good with at least one programming language and in the current generation of World-Wide Web, he/she should be capable of developing great web applications. So I often like to teach Operating Systems, Java Programming Language, Server Side Web Programming and especially in these courses I tend to pick up the latest technologies going on well in the market and give projects on those. This way, my courses not only helps students graduate but also can add value to their resume.

Teaching is not where a teacher speaks for an hour and the students can reach the zenith of their boredom. I wish to make my classes as interactive as possible. The best way I can do this is by enforcing students prepare before the class starts and teaching my way through their talk and questions. This way, it not only makes them interested in the subject but also keeps them attentive to minute details which are very crucial especially for the course like Operating Systems, Web Programming, etc. I do believe that a teacher should adapt to the students but not vice-versa. So I often like to take regular feedback from students, at least once a week so as to see if I am up to their expectations. Each week I like to set up goals for myself and try to evaluate myself comparing with those and also from the feedback I get from my students.

I am one of the many who appreciate the fact that a teacher has great impact on the learning of several students. As much as possible, I try to encourage students to conduct research on the job market, on the latest research areas, the latest research innovations. As a teacher, I wish to be available to my students at all times and help them realize their dreams and achieve them.