

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is deeply shaped by my journey from a remote village in Burkina Faso, where, despite limited resources, dedicated teachers instilled in me the belief that education can empower individuals and communities. This foundational experience drives my commitment to creating inclusive, transformative educational experiences that honor and leverage students' diverse backgrounds and perspectives. My approach centers on four principles: fostering inclusivity, promoting active learning, embracing culturally sustaining pedagogy, and cultivating joy in learning.

1. Inclusivity and Student Empowerment

Inclusivity is at the core of my teaching practice. I strive to create learning environments where all students feel valued and supported in their unique journeys. Drawing on Paulo Freire's concept of "problem-posing education," I encourage students to co-construct knowledge and engage in critical dialogue. In my *Practicum Course* (Fall 2023), I achieved a perfect 5.0/5.0 rating across categories such as feeling welcome and respected, with students noting the value of a learning space where all voices are heard. This commitment extends to personalized learning strategies that foster self-determination, allowing each student to explore their strengths and interests.

2. Active, Engaged Learning

I believe in the power of active, experiential learning. In my classes, students engage in hands-on projects, small-group discussions, and real-world applications that encourage critical thinking and practical skill development. My students have responded positively to this approach, noting how group activities and interactive assignments enhanced their understanding and sense of connection. By integrating digital tools, gamification, and arts-based projects, I ensure that learning is dynamic, accessible, and tailored to varied learning styles.

3. Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy

Inspired by Paris's framework of culturally sustaining pedagogy, I integrate students' cultural

knowledge and perspectives into my teaching. I design assignments that encourage students to draw on their cultural backgrounds, fostering a classroom atmosphere where diversity is celebrated. This approach includes multilingual resources, collaborative projects, and digital storytelling, allowing students to express their identities and contributions meaningfully. This commitment to cultural pluralism is evident in my *Multicultural Education* course, where students rate inclusivity and peer learning highly, affirming that this environment helps them navigate complex cultural dynamics in real-world contexts.

4. Joy and Curiosity as Catalysts for Learning

I view joy as a transformative force in education. By integrating creativity, play, and discovery into my classroom, I inspire students to engage deeply with challenging concepts. My curriculum includes gamified elements and artistic expression to make learning both enjoyable and impactful. For instance, through digital art projects and educational games, I create multisensory, immersive experiences that stimulate curiosity and intellectual growth. This philosophy is rooted in Dewey and Greene's theories of aesthetic education, affirming that joy and wonder are essential for meaningful learning.

Guided by these principles, I aim to cultivate a learning environment where students not only gain knowledge but also develop the critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and confidence to become lifelong learners and active contributors to their communities. My commitment to inclusive, culturally sustaining, and joyful education is not just a teaching method but a mission to empower each student to realize their full potential and positively shape the world around them.