

Teaching Statement

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Teaching experience and awards

UCLA Department of Economics Excellence in Teaching, First Prize	2016
UCLA Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	2015
Teaching Fellow, Department of Economics, UCLA	2015-2017
Teaching Associate, Department of Economics, UCLA	2014-2015
Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, UCLA,	2013-2014

Teaching philosophy

My teaching philosophy is *Caring and Learning*. I believe an education is successful when teachers genuinely care about their students. An education is successful when teachers are willing to get to know their students thus being able to think in their shoes, understand their concerns and make personalized suggestions if possible. An education is successful when teachers also learn from the way that their students think, because each individual can have unique ways to understand the world and that is ultimately what the study of economics is about.

Five undergraduate courses I can teach

Apart from the standard lower division courses such as principles of microeconomics and intermediate microeconomic theory, the upper division courses I can teach cover a variety of key topics in microeconomic theory and its application in real life. The following course descriptions are based on the syllabuses of the same courses that I have served as teaching assistant and interim lecturer for, plus personal thoughts on the course materials.

In general, the courses are designed on two principles. First, the knowledge should be explained in context of its application in real-life. And students should receive feedback (positive and/or negative) from the real life (alumni, local entrepreneurs). In many of the courses guest speaker series play an important role, not only to solidify the insights from the class, but also to provide critics on the theory from time to time; Second, the courses should be inter-connected. They may share similar topics, but are discussed from different angles. For example, students may learn how to use one-shot deviation principle to solve for a sub-game perfect equilibrium in tacit collusion for an *Industrial Organization* class, and in international cooperation for a *Game Theory* class. By repeating the same concept in different contexts, students can better understand how the economic force works and how to apply it in real life. Furthermore, the course should be complementary. A good sequence of courses is similar to a TV series hit, where stories in an early episode lay the foundation of later ones, but a late episode should be enjoyable on its own. In terms of the classes, for instance, students encounter network effect in the case studies in the *Economics of Technology* class, which helps them to design better marketing strategy in the *Entrepreneurship* class. On the other hand, students new to this concept in the *Entrepreneurship* class could learn from their teammates while collaborating on the business plan.

The course descriptions are as follow. Sample syllabus is available upon request.

Economics of E-commerce and Technology

The course covers basic economic theories in tech industry and E-commerce, competitive analysis, network effects, dynamic pricing, and reputation. There are weekly case studies on E-commerce and tech companies for students to apply the fresh knowledge of the week to real-life businesses. Ideally there are guest speakers who have relevant experiences with the weekly case sharing their thoughts.

Economics of Entrepreneurship

The course intends to provide students with opportunities to come up with a solid business idea and learn to write a business plan. The stages of the course include: idea validation, market sizing, locating target customers, monetization, business plan writing, and pitching. Ideally local entrepreneurs or alumni entrepreneurs are invited to share their stories and evaluate the business plans.

Market and Organization Design

The course discusses classical ways to allocate resources in markets and in organizations. The course has three parts. The first part is allocation without transfers: it covers one-sided

and two-sided matching where different algorithms including deferred acceptance, Boston mechanism and top trading cycle are discussed. The second part is allocation with transfers where first-price and second-price auctions are discussed. The last part is allocation of resources in groups, where legislative bargaining and coalition formation are discussed.

Introduction to Game Theory

The course covers classical topics of non-cooperative game theory. It starts with discussions of rationalizability, followed by pure strategy and mixed strategy Nash equilibrium. Next dynamic games and sub-game perfection are discussed, followed by games with incomplete information where adverse selection and moral hazard are introduced.

Industrial Organization

The course covers classical topics of industrial organization. It goes through monopoly pricing, Bertrand and Cournot competitions, first-, second-, third-degree price discrimination and tacit collusion.

Two undergraduate courses in development

Topics in Business Strategies

The course is designed to blend in theory of industrial organization, business case studies and financial statement analysis in the context of designing business strategies for real-life or hypothetical firms. The course is case-based. Each case is analyzed both qualitatively (eg. economic forces in the business model) and quantitatively (eg. sales variations from income statements), to cultivate comprehensive analytical skills.

Understanding The Economy in Modern China

The course is designed to help students grasp a basic understanding of the past, present, and the potential future of Chinese economy and its impact to the world. The course has three parts with larger weights on the last part. The first part is the history of Chinese economy in pre-reform era (1949-1978). The second part is the history of post-reform era (1978-2010). The third part is the modern time (2010-), with an emphasis on manufacturing firms and tech firms (social network, online payment, etc.). Case studies of Wechat, Taobao, Mobike, DJI, BYD and CRH are discussed.