

Teaching and learning are interactive experiences and I believe that my role as a teacher is to partner with students in the promotion of their intellectual growth and the achievement of their scholarly goals. In the role of teacher, I see myself primary as a facilitator in the process of learning. Rather than seeing students as a repository of information, I prefer to set challenges that create enthusiasm in students for learning and require them to synthesize and utilize information they've learned. I am a strong supporter of a student-centered approach to teaching which takes into account the distinct learning styles, aspirations, interests, and cultural backgrounds of individual students.

The outcomes of my teaching strategy are to embed students with the desire to be actively engaged in their own processes of learning, to endow them with the courage to think critically about the world they live in and promote their ability to articulate ethical issues that are relevant to society. Using anthropological themes of holism, relativism, and social justice in the examination of human behavior has real value and significance for facilitating student's personal and scholarly growth. The issues are not only pertinent to student's understanding of their own culture and the culture of others, but are essential for navigating an increasingly globalized world.

To facilitate student engagement with the course materials and to make courses relevant to a general liberal arts curriculum, I utilize a variety of teaching techniques that include reading, film, PowerPoint slides, writing assignments, discussion exercises and community-based learning opportunities. These strategies engage the basic three learning techniques: written, verbal and visual; as well as promote the four basic styles of learning: declarative, procedural, conditional, and reflective. I encourage students to think critically, question and even challenge assumptions in course materials, to relate materials to their own personal experience, and to engage in open discussion by sharing their own perspective with other students and myself.