

Greg Mursko

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Teaching Philosophy

Art affects human understanding and interpretation of the world. Art helps people understand the content learned inside and outside of academia. Art stresses the importance of developing creative problem-solving skills that are critical for success in our rapidly changing business climate. Art also fosters the development of learning about ourselves and those around us. Developing skills in art is necessary because creativity and design are utilized in every aspect of the professional world. Art and design education must involve an understanding of student's artistic development and how each student learns differently. I use a content rich, discipline-based approach to teaching art and design education—which includes critical thinking about art history, graphic design, studio art and design criticism. I follow three basic rules.

Teach don't Preach

In my experience, students learn better by seeing than doing. Having two degrees in visual arts, as well as 30+ years of graphic design experience, it is very easy to provide visual examples to support lecture content. Most visual arts classes run for two to three hours. To talk straight through for that amount of time would be quite challenging. Students need a break from time to time. Looking at examples at a screen, lightening the mood with a joke or just allowing them to take a breather to help refocus their minds are supportive tools to lecturing. This works especially well when I have students work together by breaking up the class into lab time and lecture time. Lab time gives the student time to interact with their creativity without my interference.

Nurture don't Nag

Critiquing is essential for students who are seeking a degree in the visual arts. It is a great opportunity for professors, as well as students, to respectfully evaluate class projects. Classroom assignments are meant to be challenging and thought provoking. My job is to make the students think about how they can improve their creations while providing a nurturing atmosphere. All comments are to be thoughtful and respectful toward the students who is brave enough to share his or her creation.

I work for the student

This rule is the simplest and the most important. Students are seeking, and paying for, an education that provides them with personal growth, career opportunities and financial stability. My position is to provide them with the knowledge and skills to make these goals attainable. It is important that students are satisfied with the quality of education they are receiving and are prepared for the next step toward their goals.

Following these three rules have truly worked well for myself and for my students. I foster an atmosphere of creativity and confidence. There is no fear of being different and there is no such thing as a bad idea. Diversity is a strength. Negativity has no place in my classroom, and my students thank me for that every semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Mursko', with a stylized, flowing script.

Greg Mursko