

Alexis Rivera Jr.
Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is centered on the idea that creating a supportive learning environment enables critical thinking and provides the students an opportunity to practice their thinking skills openly. My goal is to put the students in a position to throughout their educational journey that allows them to grow intellectually, personally, and professionally. I achieve this by ensuring that I'm approachable as a as an educator, holding the students accountable for their learning, and creating an active learning environment when possible. I believe when these three components are established it creates the best possible learning environment and partnership throughout the seminar.

As an educator, it is extremely important to remain approachable so that students may engage with me throughout the learning experience. As a partner in learning, I see my role is to promote trust and work to make sure the learning environment a safe place where students can openly exchange or discuss controversial ideas that promote critical thinking. Remaining approachable, affords me the opportunity to engage students genuinely throughout the learning experience in range of matters that enables open communication.

One of my goals during learning is to ensure that the students are accountable and responsible for their individual learning. Students have a responsibility to bring their best self and work diligently to produce work that is high-quality. Holding the students accountable for their learning isn't necessarily about deadlines or assignments but rather ensuring their level of effort or engagement is appropriate for the assigned task. I feel that accountability it's also about ensuring the students clearly understand the learning expectations but affording the opportunity for the student to structure their learning in a manner that is appropriate for them.

I believe that as an educator, it is critical to create an active learning environment when possible. I feel that it is my job to take the lesson, understand the learning objectives, and create a learning environment that allows the students to be immersed or highly engaged with the content. This approach promotes learning by providing the student the environment in which they can apply the content in a meaningful manner and allows them to assimilate it with the existing knowledge structures. Active learning in my opinion, also provides the student and opportunity to think critically and creatively.

I feel that educating adult learners is both exciting and complex; Malcolm Knowles readily identifies that adults bring a life's worth of experience with them into the learning environment. A central theme throughout my teaching philosophy, is my strong desire not to be the center of the learning experience but rather to be a partner in the learning journey. Therefore, I believe my responsibility as an educator is to ensure that I remain approachable to my students, hold them accountable, and ensure that I'm creating active learning experiences. This human centered approach ensures that each student is considered individually and afforded the opportunity to grow or excel.