

The way I think about effective teaching ...

Students who take my classes will definitely learn some economics. That is, they'll come away with some principles that let them think about things differently. To me, this alone is a success for those who won't take more than one or two introductory courses. They'll also see economics applied to things happening in their lives every day. They'll also see how research helps expand what we know about how things work.

What are my classes actually like from day to day? In a nutshell, whether I'm teaching an introductory course or one more advanced, my classes are always works in progress. With this in mind, I

- Never, ever teach the same class exactly same way,
- Cover relevant news almost every day, which of course changes from semester to semester,
- Bring my own research into class whenever and wherever it's relevant. I always have something going on, and I like building my work into the course material.
- Use technology to bring the news into class,
- Use technology for other innovative teaching ideas. I'm always playing around with new uses of technology in class. Sometimes I use it too much, sometimes too little. Maybe someday I'll get it right. But I don't think it will ever be exactly right, because then I won't have anything more to play around with.
- Like to get students involved by having small question-and-answer groups, even in the large introductory classes. This is something I began to do recently, and it worked well, so I'll do it again. Even those students who hated the idea of having to participate told me it wasn't so bad and that they got quite a bit out of it. Needless to say, this part of my teaching is also always a work in progress.