

Glenn A. Terpstra

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As an educator I take on the responsibility to foster student development and growth. At the same time I encourage a broad understanding of cultural significance in relation to our current cultural state. The role instructors play is beyond the institutions they represent. It is crucial to engage community members as a check and balance for the research occurring in academic environments. Interconnecting ideas and perspectives is an asset of academia and needs to remain in the foresight of any research being conducted. My philosophy of instruction encourages critical thinking, abstract problem solving, and execution of professional quality standards. The strength of collaborative work opens new opportunities and is a primary component of my own academic integrity. Connecting departments creates charged environments that produce answers while building connections within the framework of education.

Each individual student has a unique set of skills that add to the classroom experience and facilitates to a more holistic interpretation of the world around us. The classroom environment is one that should be appealing to all students, filled with unique learning opportunities and engaging discussions rather than being talked at. My ability to explain concepts in a diversity of ways is a skill that opens a wide range of learning methods for all students.

Engaging with each student individually fosters exploration of their own ideas, so that time and money invested in school is geared towards individual desires. Preparing students for the challenges and expectations in the professional world is important for personal growth and employment success. As an instructor, I aim to provide community outreach opportunities in order to create professional connections and experiences for students. I encourage study abroad experiences and grant writing to further develop student portfolios. An understanding of world perspectives and inner workings is a fundamental element to a well-rounded and accountable education.