

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY: SALLI P. CARTER

Transforming Education: A Vision for the Modern University

My approach is deeply rooted in the principles of transformational learning, where education goes beyond the acquisition of knowledge to fundamentally change how students view themselves and the world. In my teaching, I encourage students to question and challenge their preconceived notions and beliefs. This reflective practice is integral to fostering a transformative educational experience.

I incorporate activities that promote self-awareness and critical reflection, allowing students to connect personal experiences with academic content. This bridging of the personal and academic worlds not only enhances understanding but also promotes a deeper, more meaningful learning experience.

Additionally, I focus on developing emotional intelligence and cultural competence in my students. Through discussions, group work, and experiential learning, students are encouraged to empathize with different perspectives and understand diverse viewpoints. This aspect of transformational learning is crucial in preparing them to navigate and contribute positively to an increasingly interconnected world.

Ultimately, my teaching philosophy is centered on nurturing not just educated individuals, but also socially responsible and self-aware citizens. I aim to create a learning environment where students are inspired to embark on a journey of personal and intellectual growth, leading to transformative changes in their attitudes, values, and beliefs.

Creating a Supportive Learning Space

The journey to transformative learning begins with establishing a safe, supportive environment. Through regular ice breakers, check-ins, and group activities, I encourage students to engage with each other, share experiences, and learn collaboratively. Active learning opportunities, where students are integral to the process, are a cornerstone of my teaching method. Further enhancing this approach, I integrate diverse teaching tools and methods, such as project-based learning, peer reviews, and interactive discussions, to cater to various learning styles. This inclusive and dynamic environment not only fosters deeper understanding but also builds essential skills like critical thinking, teamwork, and effective communication. By consistently adapting to the needs and feedback of the students, I ensure that the learning journey is both effective and enriching for every individual.

Incorporating Humanist and Constructivist Approaches

Aligning with humanist and constructivist pedagogies, I emphasize active learning through group work, discussions, and project-based activities. I advocate for student input in their learning trajectories, ensuring they have a say in what and how they learn. Utilizing a blend of formal and informal assessment tools, I ensure that learning paths are flexible and responsive to student needs. Furthermore, my commitment to integrating technology and novel engagement methods keeps the learning experience fresh and relevant.

Building Trust and Embracing Diversity

Trust and rapport are not just components but the bedrock of my educational philosophy. I believe that a nurturing, respectful, and safe environment is crucial for learning. In such a space, students feel empowered to engage in challenging and thought-provoking discussions. These discussions are key to fostering deeper understanding and encouraging self-actualization among students.

My classroom is a vibrant mosaic of diverse perspectives, where each student's unique background and experiences contribute to the richness of our collective learning journey. I actively celebrate this diversity, recognizing that it is a source of strength and a means to broaden horizons. I make it a priority to integrate these diverse perspectives into every aspect of the learning experience. This integration is done through tailored teaching methods, inclusive content, and a curriculum that respects and reflects the variety of voices in my class.

I strive to create an atmosphere where students feel valued and heard, an environment where their individuality is not just acknowledged but is seen as an essential part of their educational growth. This approach helps in building a strong sense of community within the classroom, where trust and mutual respect are paramount. The result is a dynamic and engaging learning environment where students are motivated to explore, question, and grow both intellectually and personally.

Committing to Truth and Reconciliation

A key component of my teaching philosophy is a dedicated focus on truth and reconciliation, particularly in relation to Canada's indigenous history. I strive to create awareness among students about the

historical and ongoing impacts of colonization, and the importance of reconciliation efforts. This involves integrating indigenous perspectives, histories, and contemporary issues into the curriculum, fostering a learning space where understanding and respect for indigenous cultures and experiences are paramount. My goal is to educate students not only academically but also ethically, equipping them with the knowledge and empathy necessary to contribute to meaningful societal change.

Drawing on my Experiences

Pulling from my extensive background in the business sector, I bring a wealth of practical insights and real-world applications to the educational experience. My time in the business world has honed my skills in strategic thinking, leadership, and innovation, which are invaluable assets in today's dynamic educational landscape. I integrate these elements into my teaching methodology, ensuring that my students gain not just academic knowledge, but also practical business acumen.

My experience in various business roles, from corporate management to entrepreneurship, has provided me with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the corporate world. This allows me to craft course content that is highly relevant and immediately applicable to the professional lives of my adult learners. I emphasize the importance of skills such as effective communication, negotiation, and decision-making, which are crucial in both business and personal contexts.

Furthermore, my business background enables me to bring in a network of professionals and real-world case studies, making the

learning experience more engaging and interactive. By bridging the gap between theory and practice, I ensure that my students are not only well-versed in academic concepts but are also prepared to apply them effectively in their careers. This approach not only enriches their learning journey but also equips them with the tools to navigate the complexities of the business world with confidence and competence.

Implementing the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Framework

Embracing the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework is central to my teaching methodology. UDL advocates for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone—not a one-size-fits-all solution but rather a flexible approach that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs. This involves providing multiple means of engagement to tap into learners' interests, offering multiple means of representation to present information in different ways, and providing multiple means of action and expression to allow for varied ways of demonstrating knowledge. By incorporating UDL principles, I ensure that my teaching practices are inclusive, accommodating diverse learning styles and abilities, thereby enriching the educational experience for all students.

Incorporating AI

In my teaching, I actively integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance and personalize the learning experience. I utilize AI tools for real-time analysis of student engagement and responses, allowing me to adjust my teaching strategies to meet the needs of each individual. This approach ensures a dynamic and responsive classroom environment.

I also leverage AI for interactive learning experiences. Through AI simulations and intelligent platforms, students can engage with complex concepts in a more tangible and stimulating manner. These tools not only aid in understanding but also encourage critical thinking and deeper analysis.

Moreover, AI helps in creating diverse and effective collaborative groups, enhancing peer-to-peer learning and preparing students for a technologically advanced future. My use of AI is aimed not only at enriching current educational experiences but also at equipping students with vital skills for their future careers.

Making an Impact

My goal as an educator extends beyond conventional teaching; it is to ignite a deep-seated passion for learning in each of my students. I aim to create an environment where curiosity thrives, and intellectual boundaries are challenged. By presenting projects that are both stimulating and relevant, I strive to cultivate a mindset where students are not just consumers of knowledge, but active participants in its creation.

I see my role as a catalyst for personal and societal betterment. This involves supporting students in defining and achieving their unique visions of success. Whether it's through critical thinking exercises, collaborative projects, or real-world problem solving, every activity is designed to empower students to become more than just academically proficient. I encourage them to develop into socially responsible citizens who are equipped with the skills and the moral compass to make meaningful contributions to the world.

In essence, my teaching philosophy is centered on making a lasting impact. It's about nurturing students who are prepared to tackle the challenges of life with resilience and who are motivated to leave a positive imprint on society. By instilling these values, I am contributing to shaping not just educated individuals, but empowered, forward-thinking global citizens ready to make their mark on the world.