

Econ 3210
Fall 2021
Prof. Daniele Coen-Pirani

Syllabus for Teaching Economics

Objectives of the Course

This course is designed to help second-year PhD students prepare for teaching economics, first as a teaching assistant, and then later, as an independent instructor. It is a one-credit, non-graded course. To receive credit you must attend all class periods, actively participate in all discussions activities, and schedule a video evaluation of your teaching by the Center for Teaching and Learning. The latter will provide you with individualized and confidential feedback about your teaching.

Instructors

The class will be led by Prof. Coen-Pirani and by Noah Braun who is the department's TA mentor for AY 21-22.

Schedule

We will meet on Mondays, 4:00pm-5:15pm in W.W. Posvar 4940. Attendance to lectures is mandatory and expected.

Office Hours and Website

Prof Coen-Pirani's office is Posvar 4710, phone x8-1749, e-mail coen@pitt.edu. The best way to contact him is by e-mail. His office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3pm or by appointment at other times. The course has a Canvas page where you will find classroom material. Noah Braun is best reached by email at nmb93@pitt.edu.

Readings

We will draw from the following resources as needed. There are a number of research-based general texts on university-level teaching. A recommended one is "How Learning Works. Seven Research-Baed Principles for Smart Teaching." by S. Ambrose, M. Bridges, M. DiPietro, M. Lovett, M. Norman. Publisher: John Wiley and Sons, 2010. It is available online on the Hillman's library website.

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Teaching and Learning has a useful TA Handbook: The Teaching Assistant Experience, which provides an overview of teaching at the university level and a variety of practical guidelines.

There is a vast literature on teaching economics, reviewed by S. Allgood, W. Walstad and J. Siegfried (2015): "Research on Teaching Economics to Undergraduates," *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 53, No. 2, pp. 285-325. A shorter, but more dated, article is W. Becker (2000): "Teaching Economics in the 21st Century," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 109-119.

Resources

The University Center for Teaching and Learning offers a variety of individualized teaching support for graduate students as part of their Graduate Student Teaching Initiative. You may consult their website to:

- Read the TA Handbook mentioned before.
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting with a Teaching Consultant.
- Review your responsibilities as Teaching Assistants.
- Access a variety of useful teaching resources and tips.
- Earn an Achievement in Pedagogy Badge which will be useful in the job market by attending six qualifying Teaching Center workshops.

Class Schedule and Topics

(subject to change)

- 8/30. Introduction. Structure of recitation. Discussion of active learning.
- 9/6. No class - Labor day holiday.
- 9/13. Active learning.
- 9/20. Board work and problem solving (Katherine Wolfe and Jane Caldwell).
- 9/27. Student mock recitations (2).
- 10/4. Student mock recitations (2).
- 10/11. Student mock recitation (1). Technology session (Top Hat - Daniele Coen-Pirani).
- 10/18. Student mock recitation (1). Technology session (Moblab - Neeraja Gupta).
- 10/25. Student mock recitation (1). Technology session (Gradescope - Noah Braun).
- 11/1. Student mock recitation (1). Technology session (Asynchronous teaching and Panopto).
- 11/8. Student mock recitation (1). Preparing and teaching your own class (Marissa Lepper).
- 11/15. Student mock recitation (1). Writing teaching statements.
- 11/22. No class. Thanksgiving holiday.
- 11/29. Student mock recitation (1). Designing your own syllabus.