

Observation for Teaching Assistant

School Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Observed Venkatesh Subramanian

Date of Observation October 16, 2024 Course Observed: Topics in Science, Technology and Institutions: from Writing to Cryptocurrency

Type of Course (lecture, lab, etc.) Lecture

	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>	<i>Done Well</i>	<i>Truly Exemplary</i>
CONTENT				
1. Presented main ideas clearly	NA	NI	DW	TE
2. Clearly addressed relevancy of main ideas	NA	NI	DW	TE
3. Called for higher order thinking of students	NA	NI	DW	TE
4. Related ideas to students' prior knowledge	NA	NI	DW	TE
5. Provided definitions for new terms/concepts	NA	NI	DW	TE
6. Referred students to sources of credible information to deepen and/or broaden their knowledge of an idea	NA	NI	DW	TE
ORGANIZATION				
7. Was prepared for class	NA	NI	DW	TE
8. Connected content to previous classes	NA	NI	DW	TE
9. Stated organization/objectives	NA	NI	DW	TE
10. Used clear, effective transitions with summaries	NA	NI	DW	TE
11. Used instructional time well	NA	NI	DW	TE
CLASSROOM INTERACTIONS				
12. Facilitated students' active engagement/participation in learning	NA	NI	DW	TE
13. Used and responded to questions effectively	NA	NI	DW	TE
14. Showed awareness of different levels of students' knowledge	NA	NI	DW	TE
15. Had a good rapport/engagement with students	NA	NI	DW	TE
16. Was responsive to verbal and nonverbal feedback from students	NA	NI	DW	TE
17. Treated students with respect	NA	NI	DW	TE
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION				
18. Was confident and enthusiastic	NA	NI	DW	TE
19. Made adequate eye contact with students	NA	NI	DW	TE
20. Used clear articulation and pronunciation	NA	NI	DW	TE
21. Avoided distracting mannerisms and language	NA	NI	DW	TE
22. Projected voice to be easily heard	NA	NI	DW	TE
23. Used appropriate pace of delivery	NA	NI	DW	TE
USE OF MEDIA AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS				
24. Used classroom technology proficiently	NA	NI	DW	TE
25. Used websites, video clips, and other visuals and audiovisuals effectively	NA	NI	DW	TE

Comments

Strengths:

- 1. Content of the lecture:** The lecture was well-organized, and the content was generally solid. Venki demonstrated a clear understanding of the material and effectively communicated key concepts. One of the highlights was the inclusion of real-world examples, particularly the discussion of the CHIPS Act. This example was highly relevant and engaging, helping to connect theoretical content to practical, current events, which enhanced students' understanding. He included time blocks to engage with students.
- 2. Explanation of Game-Theoretic Models:** Venki did great explaining the key intuitions from a complex game-theoretic model. This helped students grasp the underlying logic behind the model and how it applied to the broader context of the lecture.
- 3. Clarity in Explaining Complex Empirical Papers:** Venki did an excellent job explaining complicated papers in a way that was both rigorous and accessible. The clear, step-by-step explanation of the methods used, especially regarding the construction of the counterfactual in the observational study, demonstrated a strong command of the material and an ability to make complex concepts understandable for the students.
- 4.** The slides were well-prepared and informative. They were easy to read, containing all the necessary details without any distracting or unnecessary elements. This made it easier for students to focus on the content and follow the lecture seamlessly.

Areas for improvement:

1. While it's helpful to structure the lecture, students don't need to know exactly how much time will be spent on each section. Focusing more on the flow of the material rather than the time allocated for each part could help maintain a smoother pace and keep students engaged.
2. Pacing: It would be beneficial to slow down slightly during the lecture.
3. It's important to emphasize the main three takeaways of the lecture. You've put them on the slide but reading them is really important. The same goes for reading the questions you want answered.
4. When presenting puzzles or paradoxes in the material, it would be helpful to explain why they are puzzling earlier in the lecture. This would provide students with a clearer sense of the problem or conflict they're expected to resolve and could deepen their engagement with the material.
5. Venki tends to underestimate the time it takes to deliver the lecture. While the content is thorough, it would be beneficial to prioritize the most important material to ensure everything can be covered without rushing towards the end. By focusing on the key takeaways and cutting down on less critical details, Venki can create a more balanced and evenly paced lecture.

Summary: Venki delivered an outstanding lecture, demonstrating exceptional clarity in explaining complex concepts, including methods from observational studies and game-theoretic models. His ability to break down difficult material into accessible steps while maintaining academic rigor was impressive. Venki also engaged the students very well, encouraging participation and fostering an interactive learning environment. The slides were well-designed, informative, and easy to follow, ensuring that students could stay engaged without distractions. Overall, Venki strikes an excellent balance between thoroughness and accessibility, making complex topics understandable for all students. His thoughtful approach to teaching reflects both his deep knowledge and his dedication to helping students succeed.

Date of Conference before Classroom Visit October 16, 2024

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Observer Signature _____

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Observer Title Assistant Professor