

Prof. Dr. İsmail Hakkı Altaş

TEACHING STATEMENT

The Point of View

We do not have to say how education is important. We know and agree that it is. A good education depends on a good teaching, and a good teaching comes with a good teacher. This means that teacher is the key for a good education. A good teacher care, understand and pay attention to the students and gain respect from them. A good teacher would be prepared for the lectures or talks to be delivered and stand straight up across the audience indicating that there is an expert in the room. Professors in universities are noting but the expert teachers, who are ready to share their knowledge of expertise with the students. A good engineering professor prepares the students for professional engineering life as well as for academics and research world. A teaching professor makes the students think differently beyond regular topics and develop innovative solutions to the problems besides the classical thinking and classical solution methods. Makes them to go beyond classical topics by thinking, developing and designing original projects for future developments. A good teaching professor makes the students to trust themselves and to believe in themselves that they can succeed if they work hard.

Teaching experience

I have been teaching with an education point of view I described above at Karadeniz Technical University, Türkiye, since 1994. I have seen that the students are doing very good jobs if we trust and encourage them to do so. When they see our effort to give something to them, they understand what is happening and act accordingly.

For example, when I become the head of the department in 2009, I offered my colleagues at KTU to change the concept of the final year projects; however, most of them were not agree with me. I offered to separate the final year graduation project into two parts. Such that students would have developed a project idea and design it during one term, then they would have produce a prototype from their design and would present it in a project fair at the end of following term. My colleagues did not believe that the students could do that. However, there were 110 projects at the end of the year, and those projects were presented in our "Final Year project fair: From dream to reality". This project fair continues since then and organized nationally by Technology Transfer Center at KTU since 2013. I am the founder of this project fair.

I believe in that practical works are very important in engineering education. Therefore, theoretical knowledge must be supported by laboratories and projects.

I taught different courses during my teaching career. I gave courses in circuits, electrical machines, power systems, automatic control systems, system dynamics and control, fuzzy logic, neural fuzzy systems, ethics and project management. A list of courses I taught during my teaching career is given in my CV.

The courses I taught during last Five years are listed below.

Undergraduate courses

Fuzzy Logic (in Turkish)
Intelligent Control Systems (in Turkish)
Intelligent Control Systems (in English)
Project Management (in English)
System Dynamics and Control (in English)
Power Distribution Systems (in English)
High Voltage Techniques (in English)
Renewable Energy Systems (in English)
Distributed Generation Systems (in English)
Engineering Design (in Turkish)
Graduation Project (in Turkish)

Graduate courses

Neural Fuzzy Systems (in English)
Power System Stability (in English)
Fuzzy Logic Control (in English)
Fuzzy Logic Control in Energy Systems (in English)

I delivered the course "Systems and Control" in the University of New Brunswick, Canada, when I was a visiting scholar there during 2006-2007 Spring term.

Teaching approach

I believe in that it is necessary for an effective teacher to have the students in the classroom feel comfortable and motivated for learning. A teacher should have the ability to understand expectations, needs and behaviors of students in order to give them what is required, and go beyond their expectations. A teacher must find interesting ways to draw student's attention during lecture and keep their interest in what is being taught. The talk, the look, the smile and body language are also important to keep the students in the lecture. Students should understand that the course is important for their education and show their interest to the course. However, more than the importance of the course, the students should feel comfortable and enjoy the course in order to show their interests.

Teaching Style

I have Power Point presentation files for all my courses. I give .pdf files of all presentations to students and ask them to get a print out and bring them to classroom in order to be able to take notes on them during the lectures.

I am using a Microsoft Surface laptop computer in order to get the student's attention, because I am able to write and draw anything on the screen as if I am writing on the blackboard. All the presentation files are animated and appear on the screen in an order. Such that the students can follow them without getting board. Besides, I use a special pen and draw, highlight, write explanations on the screen while the students follow up and take notes. With this type of teaching style, I keep the students awake to join and follow the lecture.

Sample Lectures

You can access my recorded lecture videos through the following link.

<https://courses.altas.org/VIDEOS/index.html>

Other Potentials

I have been a member of MÜDEK (Engineering Education Programs Evaluation and Accreditation Association) and I have been evaluating Electrical and Electronics Engineering departments more than 10 years. I think this experience is also affecting my look on teaching.