How to teach poorly

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Don’t bother giving students an outline

- Students don’t need a syllabus. Your course is *dynamic*
- Each class doesn’t need an outline. It’s just a part of a long intricate story.
Lecturing is *the key* for an effective class

- Eric Mazur
Completely revamp your class each offering

• You need to make sure the class is fresh
• There are many things that didn’t work last time, so I should fix them all now
• Incremental progress is boring
TAs are for grading only

• I’m running this course. An graduate or undergraduate student can’t help
• My PhD makes me uniquely qualified to educate
• An empowered TA is a dangerous one

• **TAs don’t need any guidance at all**
Class time is where all the learning happens

• Class time is the most important part of the learning experience
• Time spent crafting assignments is wasted time
• The out of class assignments are simply for reinforcing what we did in class

- Eric Mazur
Assessing student work is unimportant!

- Students don’t pay attention to my comments, so I shouldn’t worry about getting it back to them quickly.
- All that matters is that I calculate their grade correctly.
- Essays should be covered in red ink. That will teach them how to write.
My students should be just like I was (or my recollection of what I was like)

- Their homework is of such poor quality
- My friends and I took all of our courses seriously and learned for the sake of knowledge
- Out of class stuff doesn’t matter
- Learn the fundamentals
- Kids these days...
Students who look like me will do better because I’m in front of the class

• I’m a role model!
• My students will come to office hours and relate well to me.
• I’m black, so I’ll definitely be a great mentor to black students.
Other bad advice

• Don’t practice
• Don’t talk to other faculty about teaching
• Don’t talk to faculty in other departments about teaching
• Easy grading will get me higher ratings
• Teaching isn’t important to my academic career
Thanks

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• Duke CS Education Group:
  ➢ Owen Astrachan
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• Eric Mazur

• NSF Division of Undergraduate Education colleagues
  ➢ Lee Zia
  ➢ Connie Dellapiana
  ➢ Jane Prey

• Lots of great teaching role models