

# **Bronwyn G. Graves**

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## **Statement of Teaching Philosophy**

The most impactful teachers in my college career were those who presented me with a way of thinking about the world I had never considered, regardless of subject. We who teach economics in particular have this opportunity to impact our students by presenting the operations of the world in a new way, and I consider myself fortunate to teach economics to students with differing interests in my subject. I believe that economic analysis can benefit any person in any career through the application of the broader ideas such as supply and demand, value, and incentives and the narrower topics such as taxation, interest rates, and tariffs.

In my undergraduate classes, I balance presentations of topics, graphing, and analytical problems with discussions of current events. I stress the importance of using economic analysis in any situation, and I encourage students to ask and answer the “what if” questions about economic topics, such as unemployment during COVID or the wider acceptance of cryptocurrency. My goal is to facilitate the practical, personal application of economic principles in the students’ lives. I aim to help them build a filter of economic thought through which they can analyze their personal decisions and the events of the world.

I emphasize the importance of all majors and experiences in order to show the connections that already exist between economics and students’ lives. I assign projects that allow students to study economics topics in which they already have interest, such as music or sports. I understand and appreciate the diversity of my students and the personal barriers that they may face in a college setting. I aim to present myself as an approachable instructor who is willing to listen to her students. One student wrote in my first semester of teaching: “I feel that [Ms.] Graves was able to create an inviting environment that allowed students to feel comfortable asking questions.”

I enjoy answering students’ questions as it gives me the opportunity to research and more fully understand economics topics and current events. For example, during my first semester of teaching (Spring 2021), new cryptocurrencies rose in popularity in the stock market. After diving into this topic, I was able to answer students’ questions about the background of cryptocurrency, and we discussed what the economic implications would be for the U.S. if every person paid with cryptocurrency.

My first semester of teaching was an all-remote class, giving me the opportunity to learn how to engage a class remotely and learn how to use the remote technology to my advantage. I also have learned the necessity of taking more time to connect to students when teaching remotely, and I did my best to incorporate individual accommodations when necessary (e.g., due date extensions for personal circumstances) and make time for virtual face-to-face meetings outside of my posted office hours.

## Teaching Evaluations

ECON 2410: Principles of Macroeconomics (2021 Spring Semester, Middle Tennessee State University) [Remote]

Instructor Evaluation Mean: 4.63/5

Selected Student Comments:

- “Knowledge over the subject”
- “Made the class engaging to Learn”
- “I believe that the strength of this course was how the instructor answered all questions that were asked with easy-to-understand answers.”
- “She made sure to allow students to ask questions and she also provided proper homework related to the topics of class. She also presented everything in a manner for us to understand and presented many examples.”
- “I feel that [Ms.] Graves was able to create an inviting environment that allowed students to feel comfortable asking questions.”
- “Great lectures with engaging and entertaining course. [Instructor] was informed of the respected work and able to answer questions and be of help.”
- “She was always open to questions and asked if anyone was having trouble understanding the material. She was also quick to reply when communicating outside of class.”
- “Teacher is always prepared and makes sure students understand a concept before moving on.”
- “Instructor Graves’ strengths include expressing genuine concern for students success in the course. She attempted to create an adequate learning environment given the circumstances of Covid. Also, she is approachable. It is easy to ask questions.”
- “really sweet lady, also was always able to answer our questions outside of class.”
- “The strengths of the course was that the instructor was very helpful in answering question when we did not understand something. She also engaged the whole class in the zoom meeting.”
- “She's always helpful and caring.”
- “The instructors taught very effectively and got students to voice their opinions through calls.”
- “Demonstrates the sincere desire to teach. Makes teaching the number one priority. Accepts and restrictions and the work necessary to do the job right. Does what must be done to keep students apprised of their progress, successes, and needs...Accepts criticism and suggestions as positive signs for change. Constantly looking for new and better ways to teach.”
- “She was a very great professor who cared about making sure students understood before moving on.”