

Tips and Techniques for Effective Class Teaching

- Give an overview of the previous week at the start of the session.
- Preview the next session at the end of the session. Make clear to students what you expect them to do in preparation for the next class.
- When using the board, PLAN. Draw diagrams slowly, carefully, and turn to talk to the students as you do them. Don't keep your back to the students.
- Divide the board (think in terms of students' A4 work sheets).
- Refer to students by name.
- Move around the students; don't always just stand at the front.
- Look at student work, but take care not to criticise, humiliate or ridicule the students. This requires trust.
- Tips for learning names: use the register; try name badges; always refer to students by name when you hand back work; look at them and say their name; get them to clarify pronunciation at the start and practice with them until you've got it; check out the student photo-boards* on the School website.
- Use Class Mailer* to communicate with your class group(s).
- Try dealing with problems out of class on a one-to-one basis (you can hand a note to a student at the end of class, or email them, asking them to come see you).
- Use the board to clarify key points – but also refer them to the lecture notes. Make sure they bring these to class.
- Call students to the board sometimes.
- Pick up on common problems and work through these problems WITH them, not FOR them. They need to be actively involved.
- Don't turn your back on students.
- Don't be constrained by the furniture. If necessary, move the furniture. Sometimes a few simple moves can make all the difference.
- Give Economists a human face, e.g. use light anecdotes about famous names
- Do use questions A LOT – often short and quick questions will keep students engaged more than expecting one student to answer a long complicated question.
- Learn how to RELAX yourself.
- Check out how the different individuals in the class are coping.
- Be prepared to prioritise the work to be done in class – trying to cover everything can end up with students gaining little or nothing.
- Think about the level you are teaching at. Don't give MSc type explanations to undergraduates.
- Let classes be fun!!

*The Student Photo-boards and Class Mailer can be both be accessed via LSE for You, <http://www.lse.ac.uk/lseforyou>.