

## **A Brief Note About My Teaching Philosophy**

Dear UBPL 741 Student,

All my teaching and mentoring extends from a desire to engage you in your professional and personal development.

I structure my courses to engage you with academic content, with your peers, with the world beyond campus, with me as instructor, and with your own personality, values, and approach to learning and action.

I firmly believe – and have experienced in the classroom – that students learn more deeply through active learning in a safe, respectful environment that challenges everyone to engage socially and emotionally, as well as intellectually.

I also firmly believe each student enters the classroom as a complex, unique person with different experiences, skills, and personalities – each student is so much more than a receptacle to be filled with planning knowledge. As such, I aim to function more as a learning guide and companion and less as a source of information.

I am in the process of continually learning about issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). I have participated in a year-long Diversity Scholars Faculty workgroup through the Center of Teaching Excellence (CTE), have completed KU's Safe Zone training around gender and sexual diversity, and regularly participate in continuing education activities related to teaching and mentoring through CTE. I aim to bring what I learn to my work with you.

I look forward to the opportunity to learn with you this semester!

Best regards,  
Ward

PS - There is no prerequisite for the course other than a willingness to grow as a professional and person.