Transparent Teaching

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Transparent teaching is NOT

- Transparency teaching, or
- Transparent teachers or students, or
- “Invisible” teaching
- ABOUT barriers in multidimensional and multidirectional teaching and learning
  - Language and communication
  - Information and knowledge
  - Intellectual capacity and exposures
  - Expectation and motivation
  - Passion
However, transparent teaching is

• NOT about how to remove or overcome barriers
• BUT about our attitude toward these barriers
• “Transparent” in
  – the content of teaching (clear vs obscure)
  – the course of teaching (disclosing vs hiding)
  – the conduct of teaching (act of leading)
  – Teaching
For example,

- I know more than they do.
  - Start from what they know.
  - E.g., probe what have been known
  - E.g., connect unknowns with knowns
  - E.g., encourage equal-footing discussions

- I know what they don’t know.
  - Share what they should know.
  - E.g., share sources of information
  - E.g., closely supervised assignments
  - E.g., open-book (& ended) tests and exams
“Transparent” also in terms of ...

- Communicating expectations
- Explaining rationales
- Engaging with students
- Appreciating candid feedback
- Acknowledging contributions
- Uncompromising on standards
- Persevering with students
- Expressing my struggles
- Passing on my passions
One day, a student told me:

• “You are the first lecturer, as far as I know, who remembers all the classmates’ names and really concerns students.”

• “You are also the first lecturer who ‘dare’ to make an open book exam.”

• “You are also one of the lecturers who can keep my attendance throughout the semester.”

• “Keep on your good work and make an even better lesson next semester.”
To summarize,

- Transparent teaching is not about a set of teaching methodologies.
  - It is about our attitude and beliefs toward barriers in teaching and learning.

- Our transparent-teaching attitude will help pass on more than the subject knowledge and skills.

- Transparent teaching not only concerns the act of teaching, but most importantly, the teachers themselves.