

Transparent **Teaching**

Rocky K. C. Chang
Department of Computing
The Hong Kong Polytechnic U.
9 Nov., 2002

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.