

Ms Miranda Gillian LEGG

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When my friends and family ask me what I do and I tell them I am an English teacher, they usually make some kind of comment about how nice it must be to have such long school holidays! When I then explain to them that I don't teach children, I teach university students, they assume that I teach English literature. After some more clarification, they come to understand that what I do is help my students develop their English language skills so that they can become better readers, writers and speakers of academic English.

Many adults forget what it was like to be a new university student. New students struggle to understand what their professors expect of them in terms of their writing and speaking. A student might be asked to write an essay and so they write it in the format taught to them at secondary school. They are then told that their writing is too 'simplistic' or not 'academic enough', yet that student doesn't understand how to improve. A good English teacher understands just this type of struggle. They can put themselves in their students' shoes.

From my experience, students can sense when a teacher is really able to understand their needs and they appreciate a passionate attempt to help them develop the skills which they are lacking. I believe that this is what good English teaching is about. It is about identifying students' needs. It is about creating practice tasks which develop those missing skills. It is about giving multiple rounds of feedback on students' work so that they can become more independent learners. It is about developing meaningful assessments where students can get feedback on what they have achieved and what they still need to develop. In short, it is about developing lifelong learning skills.

At the end of a course, I aim to have given each of my students a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. And if I have done my job well, they will have a better idea of what their next professor wants when he / she asks them to write an essay.



STUDENTS' WORDS OF APPRECIATION

I met Ms Miranda Legg in the Core University English course offered by the Centre for Applied English Studies in my first semester as a student at HKU. Her lessons have always been inspiring and innovative since she incorporates various interactive teaching methods such as debates, role playing and individual consultation into her classes. During my semester with her, my confidence in using English has been greatly enhanced.

Although students had a diverse background of English, she managed to cater for the differences in their needs. In class, Ms Legg guided weaker students by asking them leading questions, whilst for more advanced learners, she would look for more in-depth and critical responses. Regardless of whatever means she utilised, she has succeeded in finding the equilibrium of teaching between the more and less able students.

Apart from class, she is also a good life companion. Ms Legg is open-hearted to listen to all sorts of experiences of students – be it joyous or challenging. As a first-year student, I sometimes found it perplexing to plan and balance my university life. She gave me most constructive advice every time I approached her. Albeit very busy with her teaching and managerial work, she selflessly advised me on things unrelated to the course. Not only is Ms Legg a language teacher, but also a life teacher.

Enoch WONG Chi Lok

BA, current student

Ms Miranda Legg is a charismatic, charming and engaging instructor who goes above and beyond, in the interests of her students and their education. I met her first in the course 'Professional and Technical Communication for Medical Engineering Students' and from the first class, I was hooked. That I actively looked forward to her class is a testament to Miranda's ability to interest, excite and educate her pupils, even through some of the most droll of topics e.g. Complicated Technical Medical Terms. Her ability to engage the class in active discussion, the confident charisma she exudes whilst teaching, has made me see her as the ideal role model many instructors should aspire to. I hope that, in the near future, she might start teaching the course 'Professional and Technical Communication for Teachers', for the benefit of students everywhere!

Murtaza RANGWALLA

BEng, current student

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Ms Miranda Legg was the instructor of CAES9920 in my Year 2 study. I believe what Ms Legg offered me extended beyond what the course was originally designed for. She is well-prepared and detail-oriented in delivering the course knowledge. She is helpful and patient and whenever we have questions, we can get timely support during one-on-one consultation in class, during office hours or via email. In addition to course materials, she also shares with us the techniques she uses in her postgraduate research and thesis, which still influence my essay writing now. She thinks highly of each individual's participation in the course and is open to dialogue on anything we feel. One thing in particular that I remember is my class even had a discussion where we voiced out our concerns and doubts towards the essay grading criterion. She took our negative reflections seriously and walked us through things we had misinterpreted with great patience. Ms Legg is a kind, incredibly friendly, and inspiring teacher. The course has become a fruitful memory of my university life and I am always grateful to have had her as my teacher!

PANG Bin

BEcon&Fin, current student

Ms Miranda Legg was my teacher last semester. She is an ordinary teacher, who is good at guiding, teaching and caring. This means everything to a new university student. Even though I am not in her class now, I still remember the afternoons when we stayed behind in the classroom to discuss everything, from human nature to humanism, from humanity to globalisation, from science to literature. For example, I still remember a discussion about different forms of government (e.g. communist, fascist, etc.). She said that she thought the communist regime was a superior regime. She said that she thought they were not. They are a mixture and integration of