

Teaching as Caring: My Challenges, Beliefs, and Joyfulness as an International Instructor in the U.S.

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Introduction: My Background

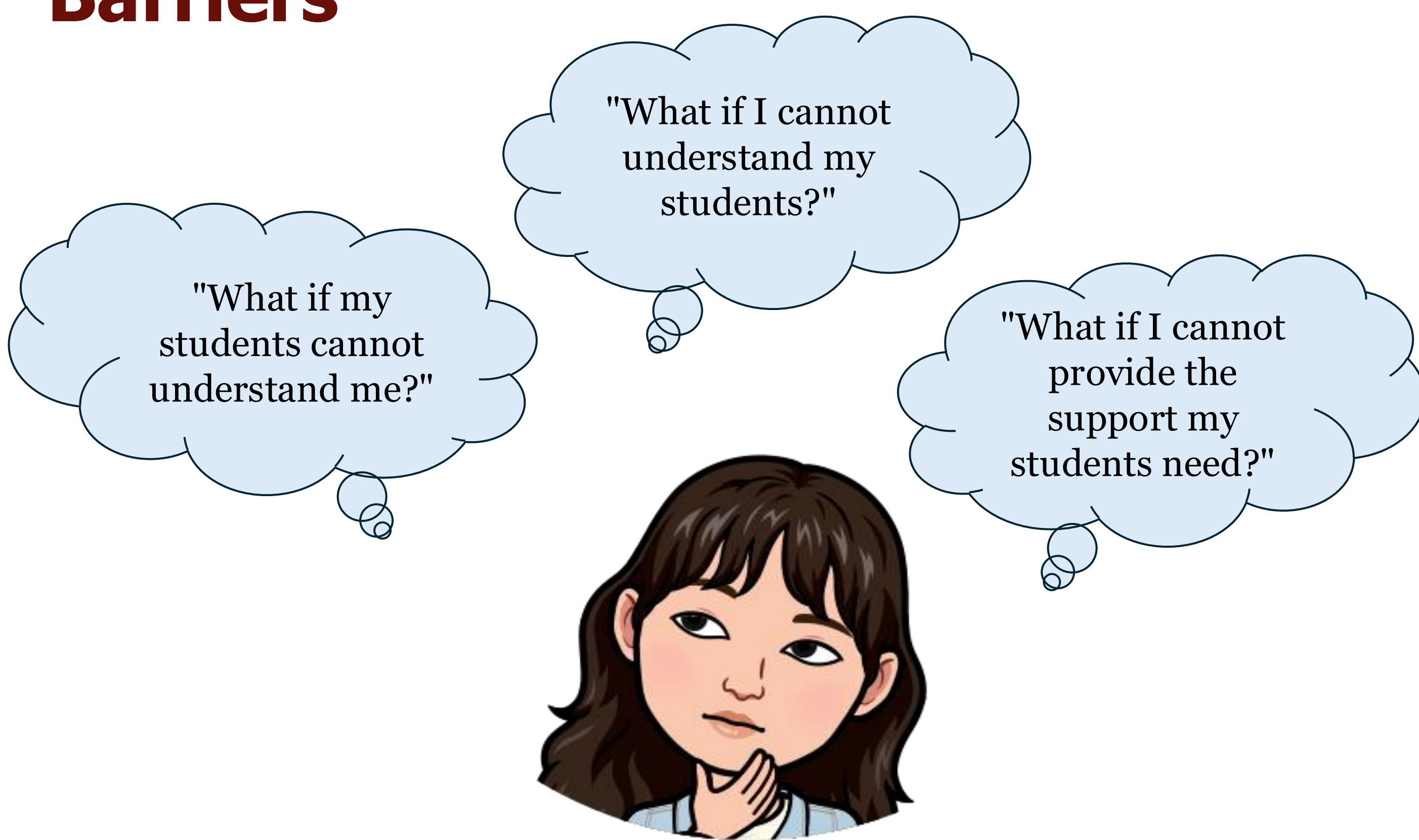
- B.A. & M.A. in Early Childhood Education
- An early childhood educator for 4 years in South Korea
- A guest lecturer for pre- and in-service teachers



- Transitioning to living in the U.S. and teaching in English for the first time in my life

W200: Using Computers in Education		
Course Description	Learners	My Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course focuses on technology integration for teaching and learning in PK-12 classrooms and beyond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate students in School of Education • Mostly freshmen • Different majors: Early childhood, elementary, secondary, counseling, etc. • Maximum class size: 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person: FA 23, SP 24, & FA 24 • Asynchronous: SU 24

My Challenges: Language & Cultural Barriers



Sohheon Yang
(Associate Instructor of W200)

- Korean
- First time teaching in the U.S
- Non-native English speaker
- Ph.D. student

My Beliefs: Teaching as Caring

Creating a welcoming environment

- Facilitating an inviting atmosphere by smiling and being positive
- Remembering students' names, fun facts, interests, and concerns
- Being approachable by encouraging students to reach out to me
- Sharing my teaching experiences, interests, and story
- Making an effort to empathize with each students' experiences

Building a positive learning community to facilitate inclusive and lifelong learning

- Learning from and with each other
- Leveraging the benefits of group activities
- Considering majors of each student when organizing group activities
- Considering level of participation, personality, and other factors when organizing group activities
- Warm-up activities (e.g., find somebody who, four corners, share your weekend, etc.)

Overcoming language and cultural barriers with active communication

- Follow-up communication with students to ensure we are on the same page
- Written communication via announcements and emails
- Improving my class based on students' feedback
- Collaborating with colleagues (e.g., my undergraduate learning assistant and other instructors) during weekly meetings to improve my communication
- Reaching out to my supervisor and mentors for additional guidance

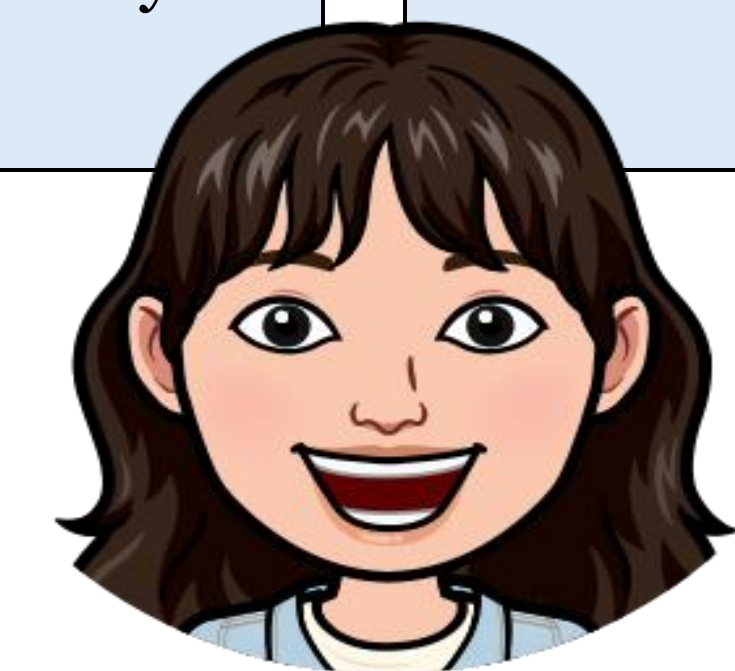
Ensuring success through personalized assistance and care

- Providing extra support for those needing help to catch up with the course
- Offering one-on-one consultation for individual needs
- Keeping students on track with timely reminders (e.g., an attendance policy, assignments due dates, etc.)
- Caring for all my students

My Joyfulness

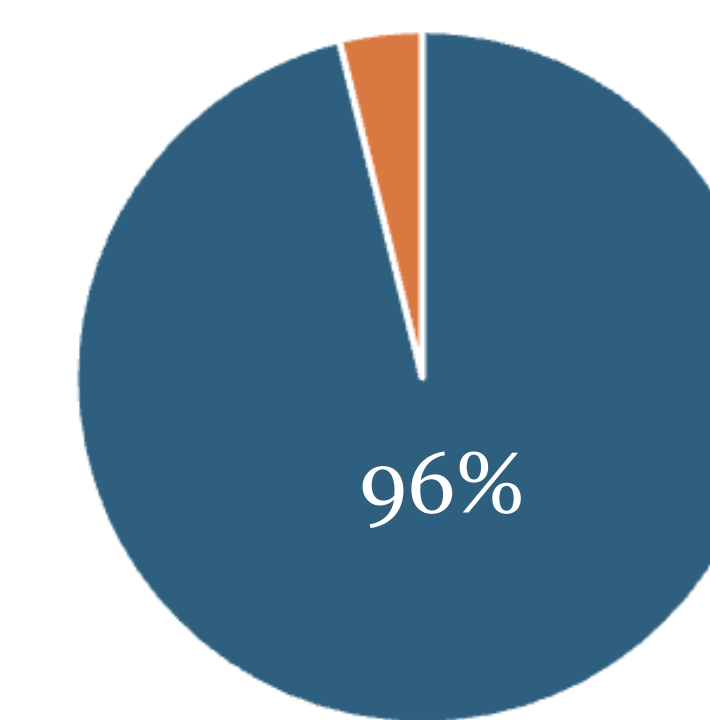
I found that genuine connections and emotions transcend language barriers. This experience reinforced my calling as a teacher. So far, I've had 99 students as a W200 AI, and teaching this course is rewarding and reaffirms my teaching beliefs.

Teaching is caring!
Teaching is communicating, empathizing, building trust, and fostering a positive community.



My Students' Progress

My Students' Achievement



- 96% of my students completed the course successfully.
- Admission to the IUB teacher education program: Attain a grade of C or better in all required general education courses.

My Teaching Evaluations

- My teaching evaluation average across four courses and three semesters: 4.86 / 5.0
- It indicates that my students consistently recognized me as an outstanding instructor.

Word Cloud of My Students' Written Evaluation



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION