

October 30, 2017

Dear Shuo Yu,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to observe your session entitled “Online Privacy” as part of the summer class MIS 111 “Computers and the Internetworked Society”.

Throughout the class, you presented material in a logical, clear and concise manner that allowed students to follow your instructions and the class content. You started with warm-up and review questions before presenting the session’s learning objectives and definitions of privacy. A case example allowed students to apply the concept of privacy to a real-world example as did your examples of cookies and search engines before you closed with potential strategies to enhance privacy protection and review questions.

I found the review questions at the beginning and end of class a highly effective method for students to reflect on their knowledge of the topic (metacognition), identify potential misperceptions or remaining questions and to promote retention of material. You did a wonderful job encouraging students to participate in discussions through direct questions and the use of case examples such as the video on how Apple refused to help the FBI. This case example helped students apply the content to real-world life examples while recognizing and reflecting on the difficulty of making decisions with regard to privacy. Whereas you made great use of in-class discussions, I would also suggest incorporating small group activities. I believe the video lends itself to a discussion about the pros and cons of privacy interference by governments. To emphasize this dilemma, you could have created two groups with one group advocating for government authority and one group advocating for protection of privacy laws. Listing possible strategies to protect privacy was a great way to end this class period since it increases students’ awareness of the relevance of this topic for their personal and professional lives.

While you were confident and clear in your instructions (e.g., gave clear time frames for tasks), I would encourage you to move around and make more use of your mimics which may promote even greater student engagement and personalize the classroom environment and the relationship with your students. In addition, I suggest to display instructions such as where students should sit in the classroom before the start of your session, so students do not have to move around during your class period which can save valuable time.

Overall, you did an amazing job guiding your students through a topic that is highly relevant in their personal and professional lives. Thank you again for letting me be part of this session.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any follow up questions.

Best,

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