

#### Observation Record

Date: Jan. 25, 2023, 8 AM

Course: IDE 401 (Integration of Technology in Instruction III)

Topic: Games, gamification, and game-based learning

Instructor: Lei Wang

Observer: Fasika Minda Melese

#### **Strengths of the Teaching Episode:**

During my two-hour long observation in Lei's class I was able to get a good feel for her teaching persona and teaching style. She managed her class very well for having 9 students, all of whom were attentive in class. There were two international students, who actively participated in the discussion with Lei's encouragement.

When I arrived for the observation, Lei had brought with her some boxes with Google cardboards in them and distributed for the students. She also put some snacks just in case the students didn't get a chance to have breakfast in the early morning. She had also opened PowerPoint slides. She started with a brief review of the previous homework and assured students that they can submit their assignments one day after the deadline on the Blackboard because they have a tight schedule of the class (meeting every Wednesday and Friday).

Lei exhibits a confident and clear classroom presence. She speaks in a clear voice, with appropriate volume and a smiley face. Many of the students are engaged and attending to the content of the session. Students exhibit a free and flexible sense of movement in the class. The fact that students are comfortable participating, and the ways that Lei acknowledges and responds to their contributions, make it clear that she has established good rapport with the students in this group.

Lei is an expert in the content area covered in this course. She is extremely knowledgeable and was able to share the information in a comprehensive way and concise manner for difficult terminologies using technologies. She has a great deal of experience in this field and was able to relate her own real-world experiences, which obviously were of interest and intriguing to the students.

In this lesson, Lei seems to be prioritizing the active learning pedagogical approach so that students are always engaged with the content being discussed. She tells students, to be in groups and work on various stimulating activities related to the topic (educational games) allowing them to present to the class and reflect on what they learn afterwards. I also observed Lei put content always displayed on the whiteboard so that the whole class has access to what is going on in the lesson. Allowing her students to write down their thoughts online, I think it helps them to retain the content. She maintained comfortable eye contact with the students and used the PowerPoint slides to guide her and students through the class period, never "reading" lecture notes, but delivering the material with ease, efficiency and effectiveness. She is quite obviously enthusiastic about the subject material and seems to inspire interest of the students. During the discussions, there were many found opportunities for humor, engagement, attention to the students as individuals, and questions.

#### **Possible areas for improvement in the teaching:**

When asking for student responses, Lei often accepts responses without acknowledging their

individual names. I think saying their name will make students feel belonging to the class.

**Overall:** In summary, this was a well-taught lesson. I was able to observe an excellent teacher who knows about and is enthusiastic about the subject matter and her students, as demonstrated through her presentation, is responsive to the students' needs. Lei was thoughtful about the content and activities that she used, and there was solid evidence of rapport between Lei and her students, and a clear commitment to their learning.