

# **Basil S Latif M.S.**

(480) 521-3659 | [basil.latif@gmail.com](mailto:basil.latif@gmail.com) | Claremont, CA

## Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy centers around making sure that the student wants to ask questions and engage in the learning process. Too often, teaching becomes a one-way process where the instructor is lecturing and the student is passively listening. I believe that a great instructor is one that lights a fire under the student to want to learn the material on his or her time. As William Butler Yeats said: “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

In my classes, I strive to be an engaging and lively teacher. Learning should be fun. I always enjoyed classes where the instructor was good-natured and humorous rather than dry and stuffy. Whenever I teach a class, I begin with an introduction that includes both my professional as well as personal interests. I find that when students can connect with me as a person they are more likely to engage in the material and ultimately more likely to retain the material.

I have struggled a lot in my path to become a data scientist which gives me a lot of empathy to connect with students who are having a tough time. While studying computer science in undergrad, I could not understand many programming concepts and complete assignments. It was only after several years of intense study that I began to write code with ease. While I was struggling to learn, I was able to learn by connecting with other students and teachers who would be able to slow down and explain things to me one on one. I strive to be a patient and kind teacher who will explain difficult concepts in a clear manner and encourage students who are struggling to keep applying themselves.

While programming and much of data analytics centers around knowing how to use software technology to communicate business ideas, it is the human to human interaction that makes our industry thrive. We need a new generation of intelligent, thoughtful data professionals who are ready to ask questions, engage with stakeholders, and derive world-changing analyses.