**Ali Akbar Ashkarran**

Teaching Philosophy

I gained my earliest teaching experiences right after my admission at the University of Mazandaran, as an undergraduate student in 1999; I started teaching General Physics to high school students. I continued teaching this course for 4 years in a large number of students at different schools. During that time, I worked with more than 300 students, from which, many went on and attended high-rank universities in a wide range of programs including engineering and (medical) sciences. During my graduate studies at the University of Tehran (MSc; 2003-2005) and Sharif University of technology (PhD; 2005-2009), I involved myself in a variety of teaching assistant activities and laboratory instructorships including General Physics, Analytical Mechanics, Electron Microscopies, Solid State Physics, and Surface Physics lab-course.

After obtaining my PhD, I taught a various number of courses including General Physics, Analytical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics, Solid State Physics, Superconductivity, Physics of Semiconductors, Thermodynamics, Advanced Solid-State Physics, Mathematical Physics, Advanced Statistical Mechanics, Electrodynamics, Condensed Matter, An Introduction to Nanophysics; Nanoparticles and Applications, and Characterization Techniques for Nanomaterials. These courses were taught to undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D students at Plasma Physics Research Center, Islamic Azad University, and University of Mazandaran in Iran. I also received several teaching awards including the excellence teaching award from the University of Mazandaran in 2015.

I present the courses in a way that gets highest students' attention/interest, elucidate problematic topics, lead the students through complex areas, and pushes my knowledge to find new ways to explain difficult concepts. The main focus of my teaching is to demonstrate to students how to manage excellent teamwork. After a while, when the well-organized team gets to work, the students can experience and feel the super-productivity of teamwork. I always enthusiastic on receiving feedback from students which helped me to substantially improve my teaching capacities.

I would be happy to teach all of the aforementioned courses as I am well experienced in these courses. I am also confident in my abilities to teach additional advanced courses for undergraduate and graduate students. Teaching is a quite challenging endeavor, but it is also very enjoyable. My experience as a teacher both in and outside of the classroom has been rewarding. To observe students fully comprehend the meaning of the complex physical concepts, how they relate to other courses, and how it can be translated into real-world applications, is one of the most thrilling joys of being an instructor. I am quite excited for the opportunity to make significant contributions in the teaching team of the Department Physics at Texas Tech University.