

The background features several large, overlapping, semi-transparent swirls in shades of purple, green, and blue. Scattered throughout are numerous small, yellow, triangular shapes that resemble sun rays or confetti. The overall aesthetic is bright and dynamic.

# **Relationship and Communication with Students: My personal perspective**

**Kelvin T. W. Ng**  
Civil Engineering



# Does Relationship Matter?

- Development of trust and respect in the instructor are very important in
  - Effective teaching
  - Engagement of students
- I have organized my experience as a TA around 5 “rules of thumb” that I follow as I go about my teaching life





# (I) Know your audience: Who are they?

- Students' background, academic ability, academic timetable...etc.
- Student's goals and expectations: appeal to students' interest and needs
- Every individual is unique and therefore every class is different in some way



## (II) Be considerate / supportive

- Sleeping in class; late/no-show; lousy assignments; not participating:
    - Diversity of students' needs
    - Rigid/narrow curriculum
    - Part-time employment
    - Heavy workload
    - Inadequate resources
    - Personal issues
  - Concern for students' learning and well-being; caring and supportive
- 
- 



## (III) Be specific with criticisms

- Criticisms: bad for student-teacher relationship?
- Be specific
  - Are there any mistakes made by the students?
  - Why are they wrong?
  - How to improve?
- State the facts but keep the tone positive



# (IV) Professionalism in teaching

- Everyone makes mistakes
- If my students pointed out my mistakes, I will admit and correct it immediately
- If I don't know the answer, I will check the answer with the students together
- "Care and professionalism win the respect of students, not perfection."

- Prof. Edmond Ko, HKUST



# (V) Open environment for feedback

- Are students feeling comfortable to ask questions and to discuss class materials?
- Students are encourage to come to meet with me after-class for informal discussion
- Act as facilitator/collaborator instead of the authority



# Rules of Thumb

1. Know your audience
2. Be considerate / supportive
3. Give constructive criticisms
4. Act professionally
5. Create open and comfortable learning environment



Thank You

