

Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

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Quantitative Scores of Student Evaluations (Scores on a 5-point scale)

Introduction to Political Science: Power and Politics

	Evaluation Question	Fall 2013	Winter 2016
1	The teaching assistant stimulates me to think and learn.	4.27	4.24
2	The teaching assistant knows the material and leads discussions effectively.	4.32	4.53
3	The teaching assistant effectively relates the discussion sections to lectures and other aspects of the course.	4.14	4.4
4	The teaching assistant effectively leads and focuses class discussion.	4.23	4.29
5	The tutorial environment and size was conducive to participation and constructive discussion for students.	4.55	4.36
6	The teaching assistant was available to meet with students regarding assignments and provides helpful comments on papers and exams where appropriate.	4.77	4.24
7	How would you rate the overall performance of the TA?	4.27	4.42

Selected Feedback from Student Evaluations

Introduction to Political Science (Fall 2013)

Q: In your opinion, did the TA welcome alternative viewpoints? Did the TA treat all students fairly? Why do you feel this way?

- Yes! She welcomed all students to participate in class discussions and was very understanding of different viewpoints, but always provided an alternative to create a stronger argument
- Yes the TA was very fair. She welcomed different viewpoints and openly talked through the logic of each one without being harsh or condescending.
- Yes on all counts, because she constantly attempted to keep an open dialogue
- Yes. No question had a wrong answer and she was able to find a way to make all answers relate.
- Yes she did and also added her own points and kindly show or say whether that argument was sufficient rather than simply rejecting it all together.
- Yes, very open but critical

Q: What are the strengths of the teaching assistant? What suggestions would you make for improving the discussion section?

- She was always available when I needed help and she understood the material very well.

- very effective at stimulating class discussion on certain topics, guiding students toward more accurate frameworks / theses
- Ching-Fang is an excellent teacher. She provides good and thorough analysis of what is expected to be attained from this course. There are absolutely no weaknesses.
- She was a really big help in regards to essay tips + writings
- Her strength is her knowledge and her approach; it was always a light learning environment that was welcoming to come into.
- The TA is effectively able to take on discussions. The discussions are extremely helpful and informative. If the class or student is struggling to come up with arguments then she intervenes and helps. Furthermore I liked that every class she provided handouts for the class which help guide the discussion and listed important points.
- knowledge, helpfulness, availability for students, clear advice given to improve essays
- Ching-Fang was great at leading the discussion and presented information in interesting ways. She always encouraged participation and was willing to answer questions. Was in constant contact with students to inform them of any developments.
- good at simplifying and explaining

Q: Would you recommend this teaching assistant to other students? Why or why not?

- Yes she is a fair and helpful TA who genuinely cares about the opinions / success of her students.
- Yes I would because she genuinely cares about our education.
- One hundred percent! She is the best TA/Instructor I have ever had during my university experience (I'm in third year)
- Yes. She encouraged me to really think and understand all of the material and was readily available to help if I did not understand
- Yes, I would most definitely recommend her. She is the best TA I have ever had. I know she puts in a lot of effort in helping her students achieve as she provides handouts which she has written for the students. And also she is always willing to meet students to answer any questions they may have.
- Yes. Especially for a first year class she helped the students develop useful skills to succeed later, was fair in evaluations and was an overall nice person to work with.

Introduction to Political Science (Winter 2016)

Q: In your opinion, did the TA welcome alternative viewpoints? Did the TA treat all students fairly? Why do you feel this way?

- She tried to accept everyone's viewpoints even some of them were very strong in some sense.
- She did well in welcoming alternative ideas and treated students fairly. She stimulated the discussion and gave all the chance to talk.
- Yes. There was much controversial discussion, and all viewpoints were considered evenly and given time to elaborate.
- TA did welcome alternative viewpoints and treated all students fairly, showing no favoritism
- Yes the TA was welcome to alternative viewpoints. That was often the way conversations and discussions were stimulated throughout the class. All students' opinions were taken into consideration and debated/supported by other students.
- Yes, I feel like the TA did treat students fairly because everyone seemed comfortable and included.

- Yes, I believe she did, all conflicting or opposing ideas were accepted and helped the discussions – the TA entertained everyone’s opinion fairly.
- Yes, she was continuously unbiased and questioned each student’s opinion to a degree in order to force more analytic responses
- Yes. She did and she would always ask everyone to always back up their points to matter what stance they took on an issue.

Q: What are the strengths of the teaching assistant? What suggestions would you make for improving the discussion section?

- very engaging in discussions, tries to incorporate others into the class, marks fairly
- very motivated and passionate
- I liked how personable she was and how she helped improve my writing style.
- provided comprehensive and well formatted handouts that bettered understanding of readings and lecture
- always available to provide helpful assistance with assignments and projects. very supportive and approachable; very organized
- being knowledgeable of the material and bringing arguments both for and against lecture/reading material
- The TA was very helpful and made the environment comfortable
- I really enjoyed our tutorials, there were a lot of discussions initiated by our TA that helped us understand the concept of the lectures, so overall it was a great class.
- great inclusiveness and encouraged us to all think critically
- easily approachable / excellent conductor of class discussion
- She had a lot to discuss with the students and engaged with us effectively. She could encourage discussion considerably within all groups and class as a whole.
- Ching-Fang is really good at making sure that the class stays lively for discussions.
- She has competency and organized plan for teaching.
- Ching-Fang was very engaging and gave us time to formulate our opinion to contribute to conversation. All opinions were welcome.

Q: Would you recommend this teaching assistant to other students? Why or why not?

- Of course I would. She has shown excellent performances in being a TA. She is especially able to keep the class engaged in discussions and makes sure that the class is not dull.
- Yes. It’s the truth, that’s why!
- Yes. The overall feel of the tutorial environment was stimulating, with lots of free discussion necessary to both review and add-on to course material.
- Yes. She was very easy to talk to, understanding, enjoyed teaching and helpful!
- Yes. very approachable and provided very helpful feedback for improving assignments; helped bring together material from readings and lecture through discussion
- appears to enjoy her job as a TA.
- is open to speak with students not just about the course, but about ungrads, potential career choices and gives good advice based on her academic career
- Yes, especially awkward or quiet first years, since Ching-Fang was able to properly mediate
- I would definitely recommend Miss Ching-Fang because she helped us understand lectures by giving us examples and brought about debatable concepts in order for us to know the course more in depth. We had a very active class.

- Yes – helps look at alternative viewpoint
- Yes, her ability to engage the class in discussion on relevant materials and the open opinionated environment she created provided every student the opportunity to speak and contribute.
- Yes. Helpful friendly and positive atmosphere. Ching-Fang expanded my knowledge of the course material. Class was always enjoyable. (except when I had to present, but that's my own problem ☺)
- Yes. Very helpful, patient and intelligent. Always willing to help and explain in any way she can.
- Yes! This TA was very organized when leading the class and guided discussion effectively. She always made an effort to emphasize the main terms of the lecture.
- Yes, because she was organized, knows the content and how to teach it, and I personally enjoyed the class.
- Sure, because she's very patient and she's willing to share her knowledge with all students. She's a responsible TA.
- Yes. Ching-Fang was very personable, and resourceful. She has had a very deep understanding of polisci, as demonstrated by the information she'd provided in tutorial.
- Yes! Very engaging and helpful! Learned so much! Thanks for everything. Helped guide through first year transition very smoothly!
- Yes! She treated everyone equal, and provides comprehensive knowledge regarding materials we studied.