Teaching Evaluations

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This document summarizes the evaluations I received as a TA for Introduction to CP, Introduction to IR, and Principles of Quantitative Political Research. The original and comprehensive evaluation files from Columbia University are available on my website at `www.lindsayrdolan.com/teaching`.

Table 1: Summarized teaching evaluations (pooled across three courses)

	Mean	N
Overall assessment of teaching effectiveness	4.7	55
Ability to raise challenging questions	4.4	32
Ability to help with course material	4.7	32
Ability to encourage student participation	4.4	32
Responsiveness to student questions, opinions, criticisms	4.7	32
Feedback on assignments and exams	4.7	31
Ability to communicate with students	4.7	32

Note: Responses out of 5 possible points.

Ability to clarify concepts and prepare helpful supplementary material

- Lindsay is one of the best - if not the best - teaching assistant I've had during my time at Columbia. I'm thoroughly convinced that if she wanted to, she could teach an entire lecture on her own. She is able to clarify dense material relatively easily, and does a good job of engaging the class in discussion during section. I have no suggestions for improvement. (CP 2016)

- Best TA I could have asked for. She went the extra mile to make study guides for us and made sure everyone in her recitation fully understood the material. She's also very talented at breaking down complex issues and explaining them on the most basic level. She even made a game theory explanation video for us! I couldn't think more highly of her as a TA. (IR 2013)

- She explained the topics very clearly and made them more understandable than the readings did. She is very knowledgeable, good at answering questions, and encouraged students to participate in the discussion sections. (CP 2016)

- She is a great TA. She supplied our discussion section with so many resources to improve, learn, and study. It was obvious she put a lot of effort into it and took it very seriously. I really appreciated her. (CP 2016)

- She is an amazing help in clarifying, as sometimes the paper handout can get confusing. (QPR 2014)

- Lindsay was an excellent TA - very organized, and especially helpful in providing outlines prior to exam review. Always friendly, enthusiastic, and engaging during discussions. (CP 2016)

- Lindsay is a very good instructor: she is very clear in her presentations/explanations, always available for feedback, very comprehensive and meticulous in her coverage of the material. (CP 2016)

- Great discussion section leader! Explains concepts very clearly. Prepared us extremely well for exams. (CP 2016)

Ability to facilitate small group discussions

- Lindsay was very good at encouraging discussion and would always recap a students answer to make sure everyone understood. She answered questions in a timely manner and used media as well as other group activities to help with concepts in the class. (CP 2016)

- Lindsay was a great discussion leader. She comes off as an expert in the material and asks effective questions in section to prove participation. She has a very positive and encouraging attitude and I felt comfortable participating sometimes although I tend to be silent in discussion sections. (CP 2016)

- Ms. Dolan was a fantastic TA. All recitations were well structured and fostered a thorough engagement of the material while allowing for interjections and questions within a very limited time. She routinely followed up on all questions and provided resources to enhance understanding of various theories throughout the course. Most notably, her explanations of lectures, texts, and supplemental readings stayed within the objectives of the course and led to a full understanding consistent with the instructors expectations. (IR 2013)

- Lindsay is an incredible TA. She's organized, helpful, knowledgeable– a notably effective individual. She sends our section emails ahead of time telling us which readings to focus on, sticks to a schedule within our hour together, ensuring that we hit all of the key points. She is also always very accessible if we would like to meet outside of class for whatever reason (CP 2016)

Ability to teach concepts through activities and examples

- Lindsay is an excellent TA. She really made sure that we understood and could apply important concepts and principles of the class, while also trying to change up class and help us learn through different exercises and activities. I really loved the Borgen class where we learned about parliamentary systems. (CP 2016)

- I found lindsay to be an excellent TA. Her response time to questions was always quick and her discussions classes were nicely organized. Also she took time on certain days to provide us with group activities to help us think about material covered in class in a fun way. (CP 2016)

- great TA. explained things well, brought in good examples from outside (CP 2016)

Commitment to helping students succeed in their academic lives

- Lindsay was by far the best TA I have ever encountered. Never have I seen such enthusiasm in such an environment. Also, she had an unbelievable understanding of the subject matter. She answered all of my questions regarding the material and even assisted me with improving my study habits (IR 2013)

- Lindsay is a great TA! She always has a plan for discussion section and is sure that we get through everything. She explains the difficult concepts of the course more clearly and is very good at encouraging participation. She also provides us with opportunities to practice IDs and short answer questions for the exam. Section each week definitely made sure that I understood the lecture material. (CP 2016)

- Overall, Lindsay was great and very nice. Her feedback for my paper re: Belgium was very helpful and helped shape my thesis. I am grateful. (CP 2016)

- Lindsay is by far the BEST TA I have ever had at Columbia. She is extremely intelligent and knows what she is talking about. She is very passionate and really cares about her students. I really enjoyed / appreciated being in her section. (IR 2013)