

**Student IA Evaluation for Alex Zhao
Department of Political Science**

POLI 11D - Intro/Poli Sci:Compar Politics (Ferree, Karen E)
Fall 2022

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 28
Number of Students Enrolled: 136

1. The Instructional Assistant was well organized and prepared for class.

23 (85.2%): Strongly Agree
4 (14.8%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

2. The Instructional Assistant consistently arrived at lecture, section/lab, office hours and exams on time.

23 (82.1%): Strongly Agree
5 (17.9%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

3. The Instructional Assistant presented course material clearly and answered questions accurately in class.

23 (82.1%): Strongly Agree
5 (17.9%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

4. The Instructional Assistant helped develop my thinking skills on the subject.

22 (78.6%): Strongly Agree
5 (17.9%): Agree
1 (3.6%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

5. Feedback from the Instructional Assistant on assignments, exams and/or papers was helpful and constructive.

21 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
7 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

6. The Instructional Assistant's explanations were appropriate, being neither too complicated nor too simple.

23 (85.2%): Strongly Agree
4 (14.8%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

7. The Instructional Assistant answered questions clearly and effectively, helping students to make connections among the course readings, assignments, and lectures.

22 (78.6%): Strongly Agree
6 (21.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

8. The Instructional Assistant was genuinely interested in and enthusiastic about teaching.

21 (75.0%): Strongly Agree
7 (25.0%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

9. The Instructional Assistant was accessible to students outside of class (office hours, e-mail, etc.).

19 (67.9%): Strongly Agree
8 (28.6%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (3.6%): Not Applicable

10. The Instructional Assistant effectively connected the section/lab exercises with the material covered in lecture.

24 (85.7%): Strongly Agree
4 (14.3%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

11. In terms of communication skills, did the Instructional Assistant demonstrate any of the following? (check all that apply)

27 (100.0%): No issues
0 (0.0%): Too quiet
0 (0.0%): Too loud
0 (0.0%): Too fast
0 (0.0%): Too slow
0 (0.0%): Poor grammar and/or English language skills
0 (0.0%): Used filler words such as "um"
0 (0.0%): Other (please describe)

12. I would recommend this Instructional Assistant to other students.

25 (89.3%): Strongly Agree
3 (10.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree

13. Please describe this person's greatest strengths as a Instructional Assistant.

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- Alex was prepared, brought up interesting discussion points, and did a good job of using visuals to help us see the importance of what we're learning in a different way from lecture. I also appreciated how he made his discussions fun and interesting with his humor and by switching up group discussions and class discussions. I think that he facilitated our class discussions well and clearly explained some extra points or his own takeaways from what we're learning.
- Alex's greatest strength is probably how he facilitates discussion. He's very respectful of different perspectives and insights that come up during class. His presentation is also very strong. He creates a comforting section atmosphere and the topics are organized on a slide presentation with interactive activities.
- Alex's greatest strength was engaging in the material and facilitating informational discussion among students.
- Alex, greatest skill is communicating and making sure his students understand their readings and lectures that are being taught.
- As an instructional assistant, Alex was very pithy and detailed yet encouraging with his examples during section, interacting with the visuals on his slides that greatly helped my understanding of the overall course. More importantly, he was superb in reiterating points made by us, the students, in his own words to solidify our understanding of each concept from week to week.
- Discussion was fun and interactive and helped to prepare students for future Political Science classes and the major as a whole.
- expression
- Flexible and engaging
- He makes the class engaging by making occasional jokes that are always appropriate and related to the discussion material. He, as a TA, seemed very approachable, and asking questions was easy and he always responded to the questions asked during discussions.
- He started class with directly answering any questions we had submitted the week before
- It's nice to have a TA that is knowledgeable and well-organized for leading section. It never seemed like you didn't want to be there teaching.
- They seem genuinely enthusiastic about teaching and they seem to care a lot about the well being of their students.
- Very knowledgeable of class subjects.

- Was great at answering questions and always cracking jokes to make the early morning discussion more bearable which was much appreciated. Loved that he helped recommend future polisci courses based on our interests.

14. Please describe this person's greatest weaknesses as a Instructional Assistant.

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- As an instructional assistant, Alex did not elaborate much on the weekly readings assigned to us which served a different backdrop in terms of approaching the class. However, this was not inherently bad; it just didn't reinforce some of the "heavy readings" that may or may not have been confusing to me or the rest of my peers in the section.
- Cannot think of any weaknesses.
- Class was kinda awkward at first but he adapted well to understanding what our needs were and how to get our attention.
- I feel like sometimes the connection between the lectures and the discussion are lacking
- I would say that maybe put the context behind some of the maps and graphs on the slide so that people can better understand what they're made for, because sometimes I can't quite catch the context as he is explaining it verbally, and I would like to be able to read that. Also, I think that when I went to office hours once, I would have appreciated if he asked follow-up questions after he would answer my questions even if it's something like, "Did that make sense?" or "Do I need to repeat anything?" because I might need that.
- While he does already prompt us with questions, I think Alex could ask the class even more questions to keep the discussion going. Sometimes the discussion falls flat and while that does depend on circumstantial factors like the personalities of who is in the class, I feel like there could be more discussion points in general.

15. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

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- I'm glad that he was able to communicate with us in a timely manner especially when it came to certain modality changes due to the UAW strike, but I understand that maybe other TAs would be less inclined to be open about their decisions.
- Loved him hope to get him again as a TA in another Polisci course.

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