

Report: **Graph Distribution**

Course:	INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS (POLSW1201_001_2011_3)
Evaluation:	A&S Course Evaluations: 1 Instructor & 1 TA Default Form (fall 2011)
Dates:	December 05, 2011 - December 14, 2011
No. of Respondents:	76
No. of Students:	122

TA Effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

1: TA's ability to raise challenging questions

n = 33

Poor	0% (0)
Fair	0% (0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	18% (6)
Excellent	82% (27)
Not Applicable	0% (0)

2: TA's ability to help clarify course material

n = 33

Poor	0% (0)
Fair	0% (0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	3% (1)
Excellent	97% (32)
Not Applicable	0% (0)

3: TA's ability to encourage student participation effectively

n = 33

Poor	0% (0)
Fair	0% (0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	6% (2)

Excellent  94% (31)

Not Applicable  0%(0)

4: TA's responsiveness to student questions, opinions and criticisms

n = 33

Poor  0%(0)

Fair  0%(0)

Good  3% (1)

Very Good  3% (1)

Excellent  94% (31)

Not Applicable  0%(0)

5: TA's feedback on assignments and examinations

n = 33

Poor  0%(0)

Fair  0%(0)

Good  3% (1)

Very Good  6% (2)

Excellent  91% (30)

Not Applicable  0%(0)

6: TA's ability to communicate effectively with students

n = 33

Poor  0%(0)

Fair  0%(0)

Good  3% (1)

Very Good  0% (0)

Excellent  97% (32)

Not Applicable  0%(0)

7: Overall effectiveness of the TA

n = 33

Poor  0%(0)

Fair  0%(0)

Good  3% (1)

Very Good	0% (0)
Excellent	97% (32)
Not Applicable	0%(0)

Report: **Comments**

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Evaluation:	A&S Course Evaluations: 1 Instructor & 1 TA Default Form (fall 2011)
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No. of Respondents:	76
No. of Students:	122
Percent Completed:	62%

Comments on TA effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

1. Incredibly helpful for the course. Very responsive to students and their questions--he really tried to help everyone do well. Very clear about his expectations from the students. Made discussion section interesting and engaging.
2. Fantastic! I also enjoyed when he taught lecture. 9am lecture is a tough crowd, but I think he did a good job nonetheless. It was helpful that he would say important things twice because sometimes I would miss something but could write it down the second time. I think that his enthusiasm helped me feel enthusiastic about the subject matter, and that if he maintains that in a large lecture people will be less inclined to fall asleep.
3. David is by far the best TA I've ever had and probably will ever have at Columbia. He went above and beyond, discussed American Politics topics not specifically mentioned in class, and even brought food for us every section. He knew all of our names by the end of the first class, and he was truly invested in our success, holding 6 hour review sessions in the library the night before tests. I hope David keeps giving the gift he gave us to even more lucky students in the years to come.
4. Able to effectively convey lecture and course material. Always available for meetings. A really amazing TA overall.
5. Great experience, used video and supplements and integrated current events very well
6. MARRY. ME. DAVID. O'CONNELL. Seriously. This man is a god. That's all I have to say.
7. The ONLY reason I stayed in this class instead of dropping it outright was because of my TA, David. He, as opposed to Dr. Phillips, is a clear example of what a lecturer should be - engaging, interesting, and caring. David is the best TA I've ever had, period. He knows how to stimulate the intellectual curiosity of his students, how to engage us effectively during section, and makes us feel like we and our opinions matter. He is one of the most inspiring teachers I have ever known, and I can only thank him for being so dedicated to his students. I can only hope that I will be half the teacher that David is, because then I would be a pretty amazing teacher. David, you are an awesome person and I wish you all the success in the world, because you deserve it. Keep in touch!
8. He is the best TA at Columbia, and I hope that Columbia or Barnard hires him as a full time, tenure track professor next year. He is fully invested in his students, and is willing to devote as much time as his students need to ensuring their success. His review sessions helped to clarify

and simplify the extensive syllabus. He encouraged student discussions, and asked questions that applied American Political theory to current events (which made the information much more interesting). His exam feedback was extensive and incredibly helpful in terms of improving my essays.

9. excellent. devoted to helping students. approachable. eager to raise discussion questions.

10. Best TA ever. Willing to do anything for the students - meet whenever, devoted entirely to job as TA. The power points were very helpful as well as the addition of brief "fun" clips. Wonderful personality, hilarious - will make a great and entertaining professor in the future. Literally looked forward to going to discussion section every week.

11. David was fantastic, very engaging, makes material interesting, gets the job done

12. David is a great TA and anyone who has him is lucky. He runs a good section and beyond that, he is available literally whenever you need him. His review sessions and office hours before exams are unparalleled in any other course I've taken at the university. Plus, he brings in food. Just two points I'd lend for improvement: (1) talk slower and (2) don't assume the worst. Comments at the first few sections like "it's all there in logic, if you ever read it.." made me realize that no one actually reads the book and that I wouldn't have to. Knowing that even the TA's expectations of how much we had prepared going in were low, I pretty much knew from the start that I wouldn't have to do advance reading for the course. Don't assume that of the students and maybe you'll be surprised.

13. David is amazing, a complete gem. I have never had a TA that was so passionate, knowledgeable, and utterly invested in his students.

14. Excellent TA. In discussion class he went through all the important points of the reading and then asked questions that allowed the students to think and debate. Before exams he was always willing to hold review sessions and long office hours. It was very clear that he was invested in all of us doing our best in the course.

15. TAs really don't get better than David. Gold Nugget Material.

16. David is amazing! He is very enthusiastic while teaching -- that helps keep us (the students) enthusiastic, too. He also does a great job in presenting the information in different formats and with different technological mediums (songs, videos, etc). This means he was able to reach out to people with different learning styles. He also did a good job at tying the readings together and finding links between the past and present. I also liked how he went out of his way to make one-on-one appointments with me to make sure that I was following the material correctly, etc. All in all, I think David definitely made the course worth-while.

17. An amazing TA! Could not have asked for a better teaching assistant. Was always willing to go out of his way to help his students and always kept the course interesting.

18. Although I'm only a first-semester freshman, I'm pretty sure that David will be the best TA I'll ever have in my undergraduate career. He has such a passion for politics and you can tell he really enjoys teaching. He actually invests his time in his students to make sure they truly understand the material and get great grades. It's really refreshing to have a teacher who takes the time to know your name, is available to meet almost any time to discuss exams or material, and encourages discussion in section. His dedication to making sure we know the material shows especially in his midterm review sessions on the weekends (with those awesome outlines!!) and the Butler study sessions the night before the exams. His knack for explaining complex political concepts in an easy-to-understand way (usually with funny pop cultural references) has made all the difference in my grades and understanding of the topics. David really strives to get us interested and excited about the material, and I feel so lucky that I have had the opportunity to be his student! Thank you for an amazing semester.

19. Spent a lot of time on his students. Was available all the time to clarify course material. Held excellent review sessions for tests.

20. Fortunately, David O'Connell was the stark and utter opposite to Dr. Phillips in regards to his teaching style and approach. He not only clarified and facilitated the material, he went beyond that by building upon it and drawing out real life applications as well as stimulating and challenging questions. Mr. O'Connell had a manifest passion and aptitude for this course and was without a doubt the best TA I've had at Columbia thus far.

21. David is an overall great TA. He genuinely cares about students and does everything in his power to make sure students understand material. Furthermore, his lecture was clear and organized.

22. David is the best TA i've ever had. He really cares about each of his students. He gets to know them as individuals. When there is a lull in class discussion, he'll change it to a lighter subject until we get used to talking and then bring it back to the meat. He's always on time and always effective. He uses the most creative means to teach the material, using all different kinds of mediums. I really appreciated it and it helped me to learn. By far, the best classroom experience I've had at Columbia was with David O'Connell.

23. David is an extremely intelligent, knowledgeable, fun, approachable and he cares for his student very much. I am sure he would be a wonderful Professor.

24. Best TA I have ever had. Amazingly dedicated to the students. Did all he could to teach us the material. Inspired a passion for politics in all of us.

25. David is a great TA. Very knowledgeable, very willing to help out all of his students no matter what their concern is. He could always clarify course material and even if he didn't know an answer, he would make sure to find out. You can really tell that David is passionate about his work and his students and I wish I had him as a TA for all my classes. A great example of what an effective and great TA should be like.
