



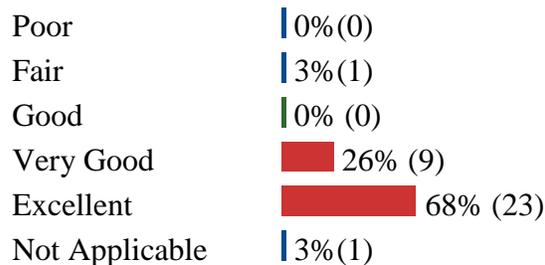
Report: **Graph Distribution**

Course: **INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS (POLSW1201_001_2010_1)**
Evaluation: **A&S Course Evaluations: 1 Instructor and 1 TA Form (spring 2010)**
Dates: **April 26, 2010 - May 06, 2010**
No. of Respondents: 61
No. of Students: 88

TA Effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

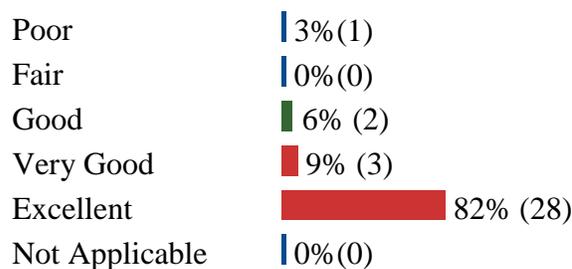
1: TA's ability to raise challenging questions

n = 34



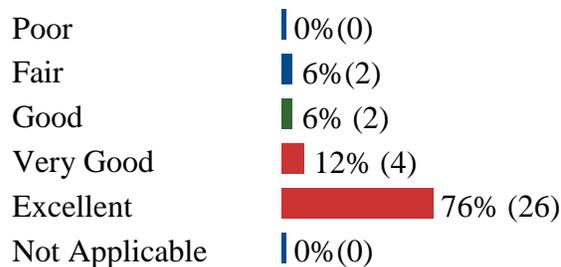
2: TA's ability to help clarify course material

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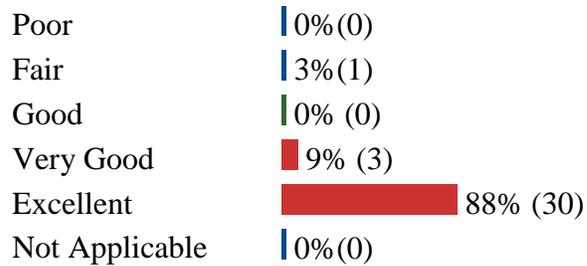
3: TA's ability to encourage student participation effectively

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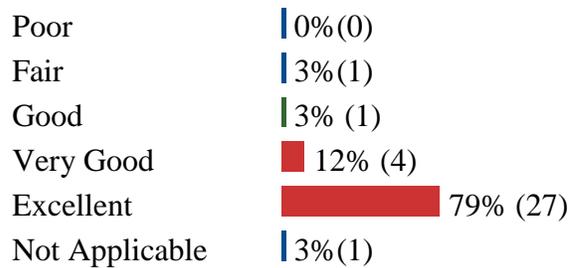
4: TA's responsiveness to student questions, opinions and criticisms

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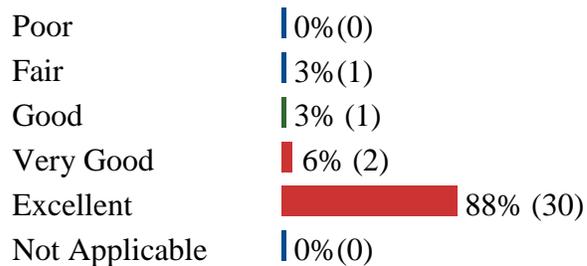
5: TA's feedback on assignments and examinations

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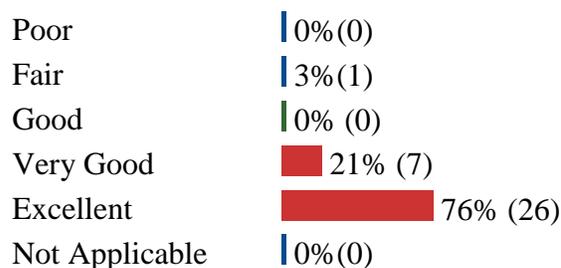
6: TA's ability to communicate effectively with students

n = 34



7: Overall effectiveness of the TA

n = 34



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Percent Completed: **69%**

Comments on TA effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

David is an awesome TA, the best I've worked with yet. He cares very much about the subject and his students. Some people do enough to get the job done. David lives and breathes Political Science. His passion for the subject comes out in his teaching of it. David incorporates so many methods of teaching that his class doesn't get tedious or boring. He takes advantage of PowerPoint, videos, audio, and very interactive polls game sessions where we're quizzed on the various topics. It's quality people like David that will make Columbia known as a great Political Science institution, hopefully he'll stay on as an instructor and eventually a professor.

David is a great TA. Class discussion was often stilted though, because few people did the reading. It would be good if he created more incentives for us to do it more...

Probably the most effective TA i've had at columbia. He was always available to answer my questions and very helpful at breaking down the material from lecture.

Really enjoyed

David was a great TA. He provided help when needed and responded to questions quickly and effectively. He is very funny and his ability to reinforce material in such a fun way made the class great.

Although David worked hard to make his discussion sections engaging, I felt he did not focus enough on helping students memorize and understand the actual material for the class. He always rushed through summaries of the readings and what we should know for the exam.

Without exception, the absolute best TA I have ever had. Each week he came to our discussions with well-thought out topics and clear goals in mind. I feel that my success in this class has a great deal to do with having David as my TA. He is one of the friendliest and most dedicated people that I have met at Columbia. He truly is an asset to the political science department and the university as a whole.

Awesome TA! related to students really well and was always available for help. Always brought awesome snacks to discussion and was always in a good mood. He was also very knowledgeable of the subject matter.

I like him a lot! I like the free food too :) The only thing is that he speaks very quickly, so sometimes it's hard to remember everything.

Made this class bearable - funny, enthusiastic, and gives fresh new perspectives to

coursework. Summarizes readings well, returns assignments and replies to emails very promptly. Always available to meet and talk. Just a great guy overall.

great TA!

The TA was great and was everything that the professor was lacking.

Honestly the best TA ever. He went out of his way to help in ANY way possible. I can't imagine taking a class without him because he is just that great. The one tiny criticism I have, which he is already fixing, is he should do more powerpoint presentations for discussion sections. But he is really amazing and I'm sad I won't get to be in his discussion section anymore.

David is pretty awesome. He is the best TA there is. He is available every hour of every day of every week to meet with you. His recitations are extremely effective in breaking down the course material. His grading is very objective. He reads each exam/paper twice. Many TAs skim their students' exams briefly on a subway ride or something prior to giving a grade. David will sit down and read everything you have to say carefully...TWICE. He is extremely dedicated to his position as TA. Saying he's "extremely" dedicated" just doesn't cut it. Words cannot emphasize the degree of his dedication. He just goes above and beyond for everything as a TA.

Amazing!!! He is the best TA I have ever had. He really cares about his students and makes himself readily available to help them in any way that he can. He also makes the subject matter fun and comprehensive.

Always happy to help and answer any questions. When I missed class for religious reasons he offered to go over all missed material. He responds to emails so quickly - yay for blackberrys!. If anyone kept me interested in the material, it was David.

Lessons were very well structured but sometimes conducted at a pace that felt rapid.

Really superb. Obviously dedicated to helping students succeed, and seems to put forth great effort to doing the best job he can. Aside from making him more effective, this communicates that he cares about teaching and about his students; this is what really puts him above most other TAs. He is also very skilled at interacting with students. The discussion section, in my opinion, greatly suffered from the large amount of material that was covered in each one, and by the fact that few seemed to do the reading. I would have appreciated better discussions about substantive issues, and I would not have minded if he had done more (if possible) to encourage students to actually do the reading, and I also would not have minded if we did not cover every single issue, if it meant better discussions.

David O'Connell is the best TA that I've ever had at Columbia by far. He is entertaining but makes sure that he covers all of the material in memorable fashion. He keeps us up to date with the material that was covered in class and he creates hypothetical Congress bills, political agendas, etc. to generate class discussion. O'Connell is the standard for all TAs.

Very, very helpful. Can make us learning in a relaxing environment.

Amazing. Marry me.

David is the best TA I have had and I do not expect to find another TA as supportive and helpful as he is. Everyone who I have spoken to who has had him hold the same opinion.

In general, I think the biggest difference between a good TA and an average one is their ability to conduct an engaging discussion section. David was definitely up to the task as I thoroughly enjoyed his section. He was able to get across the information he needed to and was able offer other points of view as well

He was by far the best TA ever!!!.He was excited about the material and genuine in his teaching style. He was caring and considerate of what it is like to be a student. He had our best interests in mind and clarified things from the texts and highlighted important features.