



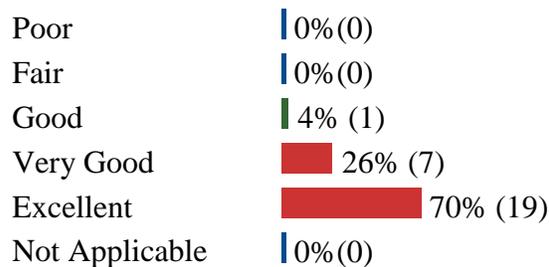
Report: **Graph Distribution**

Course: **INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS (POLSW1201_001_2009_1)**
Evaluation: **A&S Course Evaluations: 1 Instructor & 1 TA Form (spring 2009)**
Dates: **April 27, 2009 - May 07, 2009**
No. of Respondents: 48
No. of Students: 76

TA Effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

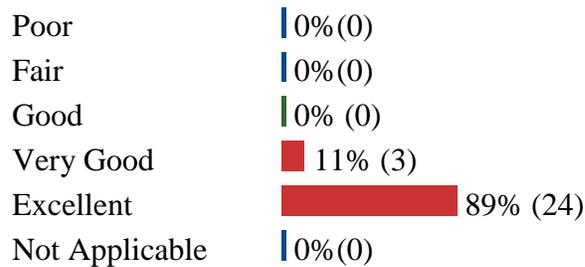
1: TA's ability to raise challenging questions

n = 27



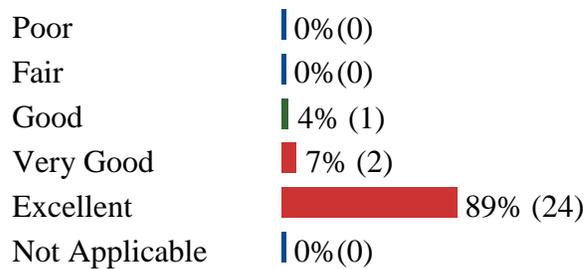
2: TA's ability to help clarify course material

n = 27



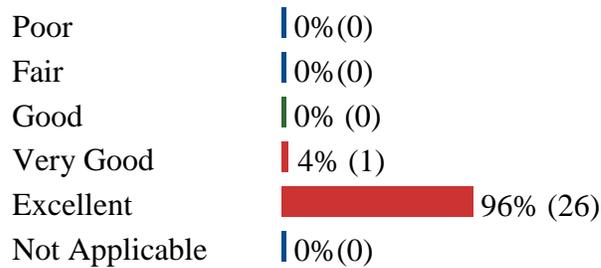
3: TA's ability to encourage student participation effectively

n = 27



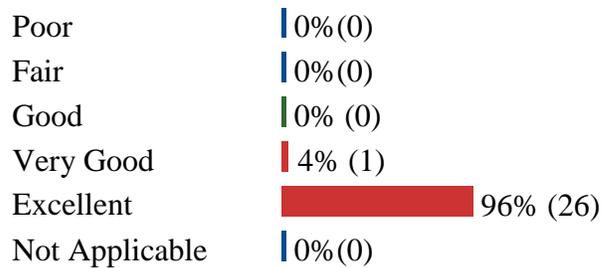
4: TA's responsiveness to student questions, opinions and criticisms

n = 27



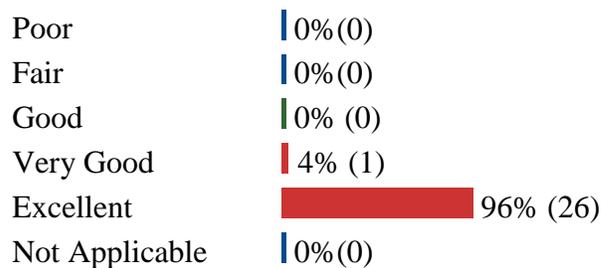
5: TA's feedback on assignments and examinations

n = 27



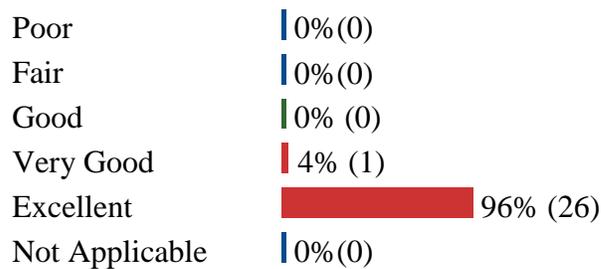
6: TA's ability to communicate effectively with students

n = 27



7: Overall effectiveness of the TA

n = 27



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Percent Completed: **63%**

Comments on TA effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

David is the best TA I've had in college. He makes himself very available to students (even on weekends). He is very encouraging and he finds creative ways to review the material covered in class. Also, he possesses a wealth of knowledge outside of the course material, so he is always able to supplement the material we are studying with outside info. He is organized and efficient. But honestly, I think his greatest asset is that he is a genuinely nice person. He has a great sense of humor, and he makes his students feel comfortable in review sessions. Great guy!

David was an invaluable resource. He was a great person to throw an idea at, and get a good, debate/ discussion starting response from. (I hope that makes sense, I just mean if you wanted to talk about something related to the material, not only were you not afraid to bring your idea up, but David would expand that idea and you could have a meaningful discussion.) I think the handouts he made were helpful. I think the pace of the recitation session was good. No criticisms. I looked forward to recitation (and so did others).

David is the best TA I have ever had. He constantly makes himself available to his students both inside and outside of the classroom. His responsiveness to emails is spectacular, getting back on time and writing thorough messages. I always looked forward to attending discussion because of his positive energy and effective teaching methods. He clarified any material that may have been vague or miscommunicated by the lecturer. Dave gave one lecture this year and it was great, using a power point and a great presentation of the material. Dave assigned some news articles for the discussion class that related the material to a current and usually interesting situation, they were great! Dave is very motivated and if he continues to progress as a teacher, the sky is the limit for him.

David is the single best TA, professor, mentor, help that I have ever had at Columbia. Just to give an idea of how great is at his job, I am going to hypothesize on how he will go about reading this. He is probably sitting with a stack of evaluations from previous years, along with stacks of emails and notes to himself, comparing old evaluations with this one. It might even be a Friday night, at 2AM. It may even be his birthday. He might even be multitasking by responding to a student's email about having trouble in a subject, with a long thoughtful solution. Being a TA is his first priority, and he takes it very seriously. It is clearly a 24 hour job for it, and his passion for it is apparent. He is

extremely helpful, responsive, accessible, thought-provoking, and dedicated. He is probably taking notes, and searching through this evaluation to try and see how he can improve. I'm sorry, David, I've got nothing for you. I could not have asked for a better TA. Further, he is the only one in the entire political science department that received a gold nugget on culpa.info. If TA's get any benefits of class placement, pay, etc, David should get all of them. He is the best.

David O'Connell is an amazing TA who is truly there to help his students and allow them to better understand the course material. He is always available to help with any questions, and made the class a better experience.

whenever we needed him to meet with us, he was available and whenever we had an assignment due he made sure we understood. he always clarified course material and showed us why things were still important today, in the context of the rest of society. should try and slow down when talking.

Best TA I've had- totally willing to do whatever it takes to help his students. David truly cared about his students and their grades. He was challenging and critical without being intimidating. His lecture was stimulating and interesting, keeping me up for the 9 am class!

The best TA I had so far at Columbia. His office hours are very accessible, he is willing to set time to help each student. He clarified most of the material that was misunderstood. His lecture on voting was engaging and to the point. His feedback for papers highlight important issues. Each student is given the same respect and treated the same. He created new things for the semester such as reworks workshops, paper writing reviews, and normal study reviews that highlight main points. He was a pleasure to have.

David is by far the best TA I have ever had. Incredibly available to his students, helpful and friendly. I felt comfortable approaching him with any questions I had. I enjoyed discussion section more than class. The fact that he brought in outside sources also really helped to clarify Professor Russell's always rambling and often unclear lectures. Can't say enough about him!

Best TA!

David Joseph O'Connell is perhaps one of the most serious Teaching Assistants Columbia University has to offer, especially within the Political Science Department. He is constantly over prepared for each discussion session and will respond to your emails for no longer than 12 hours after being sent. He writes detailed notes of Prof. Russell's lecture and will address any confusing statements students may have reacted to and discusses them with his students. One time, when his late train made him arrive two minutes late to his office hours, he felt humiliated and gravely apologized to me. Sometimes I think he takes his job too serious, but he is "human" too. He brings cookies to class and may chat about sports and family matters with his students. But he is also someone who's constantly on point and is never frivolous in his pursuits. In that spirit, I think David is the best TA one could possibly find at Columbia University (or the world!) and will definitely make class enjoyable.

David was really enthusiastic about his class and it helped the whole class to be more interested in the course work.

The energy that David brought to each session was a breath of fresh air. I am one who does not enjoy discussion groups, but I enjoyed being in David's section. I felt engaged in each conversation of course material and the lack of downtime between subjects prevented my mind from wondering.

David always went above and beyond my expectations as a TA. He emphasized that he was always available at any time to answer our questions or even assist us in getting the grade that we desired. He was always very willing and excited to help in any way that he could. He was always very well prepared during discussion sections and encouraged student participation. The class was very receptive to his teaching style and he was extremely enthusiastic about the course material. He created a supportive and engaging section. He graded our papers with enormous care and explained his grading in a detailed 1 page response (along with written comments throughout the paper). I could not have asked for a better TA. He made the course material interesting and was a fabulous person to work with. He held classes beyond the scheduled class time to help us study for the exams or teach us programs that may help us with papers. He also sent supplemental material that pertained to the subjects we were studying. Can't think of any further recommendations!

By far the most interactive and approachable TA I have had in my time at Columbia.

David is amazing! I have never met a TA who has been as passionate as David. From bringing food to discussion sessions, to meeting with me countless times to work on my paper, to the paper workshop he held, David is a great TA. He really wants you to understand the material and is super friendly and willing to give advice on anything and everything. He is the best TA I've had at Columbia.

David was a great TA. He was so helpful in section clarifying material, and he was always available to meet outside of class if we needed it. He also came to class with activities planned to help us understand the concepts and the materials, and this was an effective way to make section more enjoyable and engaging.

Excellent TA. He really helped in clarifying lecture points that were vague. He also showed a real effort to help students in all areas whether it be their writing, understanding of the texts, or preparation for exams.

David taught me more about the course than Prof. Russell. He is an excellent instructor, and judging by his lecture, he is prepared to be a professor. He is more passionate about his job than anyone I have ever met. His quality matches his enthusiasm.

really really good ta

David O'Connell made this course worthwhile. I have never had a TA more more engaging, dedicated to his students, or able to clarify course material.