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Department: POLI_SCI Political Science
Course: 240-0-01 Introduction to International Relations
Quarter: Fall 2007

CTEC Online TA Report For Ariel David Zellman

Teaching Assistant Questions

Wording of Statement	Number of responses	6 (high)	5	4	3	2	1 (low)	Average
22. The lab teacher was able to answer the students' questions adequately	54	29	16	6	2	0	1	5.28
23. The lab teacher was well prepared for each session	54	33	12	7	0	1	1	5.35
24. The lab teacher communicated ideas in a clear manner	54	31	14	6	0	2	1	5.28
25. The lab teacher showed strong interest in teaching the course	54	40	11	1	1	0	1	5.61

Comments: Ariel is very involved with international politics, and has had personal experiences in a lot of the areas we studied in this class. He was not always the best at clarifying what he meant. Discussion section was somewhat unstructured and this resulted in not covering some important topics that other TAs did cover in their section. / Ariel was pretty much the most knowledgeable TA I've had in a poli-sci class. Then again, this was a required 200-level class, so I guess it might've been hard to not sound knowledgeable. / He is very interested in the field and knows a lot. Also he was always prepared and facilitated discussion well. / / Ariel Zellman was a helpful TA. He was always prepared and enthusiastic. He volunteered to make discussion questions, review sheets and to hold review sessions to help us understand the material. Discussion sections were usually very helpful and pleasant to attend. / Great TA, enthusiastic and always willing to help. He communicates and explains the material very well / / Ariel was GREAT!! He was very helpful and VERY enthusiastic about the subject. He appeared to know a lot about the different topics and he made discussions very interesting. / Ariel was a very good TA. His discussion questions giving to us in advance was extremely helpful. Sometimes I felt uncomfortable asking him questions because one time he asked me if I really read the material. I felt so stupid. His dedication more than made up for that so I don't hold it against him. We talked about it and he gave me helpful advice for future discussion sessions and I thank him for that. / Ariel was very helpful and knowledgeable, and was always available for extra questions or extra explanation. He always moved discussion forward and engaged the group. He covered the lecture and important points that may have been left out. Overall a really fantastic TA. / Ariel is a great TA. He answers all our questions really well and makes sure we are as prepared as possible for the quizzes and exams. Also, he encourages great discussion in section. / / Ariel Zellman was a great TA. He tried very hard to help students and was very accessible and explained concepts very well. / Ariel is amazing. A great TA, really knows his stuff, really wants students to do well, always encourages questions. He also does a really good job of collaborating with other TA's to give us the best review sessions and study guides. He's patient and does a great job of steering discussions into interesting and helpful topics. He doesn't just talk at us, he encourages us to learn from each other. / Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Easy to interact with. Summarizes main points in discussion well. Harsh grader. One of those TA's that feels grading "accurately" helps the students. It doesn't. We're competing with schools that have massive grade inflation, and in the end we suffer from tough grading. / The TA was the best TA I've had at Northwestern. Ariel was a tough grader, though. He was the most enthusiastic TA, and although he didn't know some of the details of the class material specifically (which would have helped at times), he knows Political theory and some basic concepts very well, and is great at starting conversation in discussion. It was the most fun and lively discussion I've had, and I think it was due to the fact that Ariel seemed to be happy to be there and help. / Unlike other TA's he didn't really review the information, just had us discuss it in class which was highly intimidating when you are just learning. Also, it would have been nice if he provided study guides like the other TA's. / Ariel was great. When you would say something in class, he would say it better and more articulate sounding. It made you feel smart and also you and others could write it down in your notes. / Discussion sections were not very helpful in reviewing the concepts learned during lecture, I think if more time was spent on lecture material, it would have been more helpful. / Ariel was the best TA I've had at NU, by far. I actually looked forward to discussions, despite their Friday afternoon time. He's just so supportive and amusing and explains concepts in a

straightforward, modest way that anyone can get. Also explains his grading process in a clear manner, which is a nice thing as a student because it lets you know exactly what you need to do to improve. / Ariel is very interested in the material and made sure his students knew they could come to him with questions/help. / / / Strengths: evident passion for the course. He provided extra notes and answered all questions during discussion. Weaknesses: His excitement and vigor for the course often led us off-topic. I felt at times that we weren't addressing the most important concepts of the class- too many side conversations, though interesting. / / / Ariel is motivated and well-informed, and he knows how to relate to students. He is a tough grader, though, and there's not much feedback written on assignments he hands back. / Ariel was great! he is going to make a very good prof. some day. HE was very helpful in understanding the material and was always there if I needed help. / Ariel is a good T.A. He is always prepared for discussion. He likes to get everyone involved. Sometimes he called on people randomly and I don't like that because it puts people on the spot. But I think he wants to get everyone involved with discussion which is good. He is always available and willing to assist students as well. / ariel is very happy and enthusiastic about international relations... his questions for the discussion sections were nice, but i'd have appreciated it if he would have had students form a circle and discuss rather than just sit in the desks as if he were lecturing. / Ariel was a great TA, he made discussions relevant and productive but interesting, he was always there to answer questions, and he helped us out a lot before the final by making a really good review guide and having a study session / he was very nice, enthusiastic, and intent on having us become interested in and understand the material. he fostered a good atmosphere for a discussion. / He was a very strict grader, but he was fair in the end. He could adequately explain the information covered in class. He was overall a very competent TA. / Ariel knows intl relations quite well and is a great resource for questions. He was always very excited to be teaching the material and very clear in his presentations. In discussion he managed to stimulate conversation. He was also very helpful when it came to reviewing, summarizing the themes of the class quite concisely, typing up review guides, and organizing review sessions outside of class and section. He was also a fair grader. One of the best TAs I've had here at Northwestern. / From what I could gather, Ariel Zellman was the best TA. He really made discussion section worthwhile. He was clearly very passionate about the subject and wanted to help us the best that he could. / Ariel is a great T.A. who really cares about his students and wants everyone to learn and be well prepared. he was extremely willing to answer any questions and was very available to help. / Ariel takes his teaching assistant job very seriously. He tried really hard to make sure he was doing the best job he possibly could, and made every attempt to accomodate our requests, whether it be review sessions or study guides. He was prepared for every section and did a good job at facilitating discussion. The major weakness of Ariel as a teaching assistant is that he would often call on students even if they weren't raising their hand. While I understand that he was trying to make sure everyone contributed to the discussion, often times this had the effect of putting the student on the spot and making him or her feel embarrassed in front of their peers. This would be something he might want to think about in future teaching assistant positions. / Great TA. very kind and willing to work with students / Ariel is one of the best TA's I've had at N.U. He organizes and structures all of his classes and we have a great environment for participation to take place. He absolutely knows the course material and what he's talking about and communicates it as well as any professor / Ariel is fantastic... best PoliSci TA I have ever had. Very knowledgable and very enthusiastic, and makes the discussion section his own little class in addition to the stuff he is required to go over. / / / Ariel meant well in discussion section - I think he honestly wanted to help, but he was very unorganized. When going into a discussion section, you can't just open it up for students to ask questions. This is not an effective way of structuring a class. You need to have a definite plan of what needs to be covered before you step foot in the classroom. / ariel knew the material very well. he did a great job of helping us prepare for the quizzes and exams. / Zellman was awesome. His enthusiasm and desire to help students learn is great. Very good TA. / Ariell Zellman went above and beyond what was necessary for a TA. He made sure everyone was engaged in discussion and gave everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion. He made this otherwise dry class very enjoyable. / He was well prepared, knowledgeable, he seemed to like teaching the class, he made the ideas discussed in the lecture more clear. He was also very helpful and accessible. / No weaknesses, Ariel was the best T.A. I've ever had, sending topics to think about in preparation for discussion, and was always available for help. He seemed very interested in the topic, and of us learning the main points. / the concepts that were discussed were not always clear. Grading on the exams and quizzes was very subjective. / Ariel is one of the best TAs I've ever had- he hooked on to the key concepts and ideas and expanded on them so that I felt as though I was getting a dual discussion section/mini lesson. He's smart and engaging as a teacher - well done! / ariel was really nice! he did a great job of making sure to thoroughly go through all the readings and concepts. he also facilitated the discussion very well. (however, i did feel a little sorry for the people he would randomly call on in section who (a) had not done the reading, and (b) were obviously not good at making things up on the spot.) / /

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