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Department: POLI_SCI Political Science
Course: 345-0-01 National Security
Quarter: Winter 2008

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	45	30	15	0	0	0	0	5.67
23. The lab teacher was well prepared for each session	45	32	9	4	0	0	0	5.62
24. The lab teacher communicated ideas in a clear manner	45	32	10	2	1	0	0	5.62
25. The lab teacher showed strong interest in teaching the course	44	31	10	1	1	1	0	5.57

Comments: Knowledge, personality / I loved Ariel, he stayed late to help students and he always seemed to cater to helping us get the most we could out of the course / / Ariel was a pretty good T.A. He definitely knew what he was talking about and is very knowledgeable in the subjects that we discussed. Discussion sections were always very interesting. But when it came to midterms, he wasn't very helpful in directing how we could study. / / ariel was a great TA. always willing to help and great at facilitating discussion and clarifying information. / Presented material in a very concise easy to understand manner / / Ariel is by far the best TA I've had at Northwestern. Sections were always engaging and he did a great job facilitating discussion and making sure everyone felt comfortable participating. Great sense of humor and really knowledgeable about the subject matter! / / Zellman is great, really open to ideas and a fair grader. / Stengths: good re iterator of points, not intimidating, knowledgeable, and willing to help outside of discussion w/ office hours. Weaknesses: Slows down class by creating a 'list' of people to talk next ..there's other ways to do it such as just calling on the first person to raise his/her hand. / / Ariel was a good TA. He was good at facilitating discussion and was helpful during office hours. His only weakness was that I felt like it was hard to get a word in and it would have been nice to have more of a roundtable discussion where everyone got to talk. / Ariel is the ideal TA. He takes our suggestions to heart and tries to cater the class around us. He is always helpful with preparing for assignments and takes the extra step to make sure we understand the material. He will make a great professor one day. At the same time, I think open discussion for the entire time during our TA sections is a little over the top. I think we should have spent some time discussing the readings instead of just our own thoughts on the topic. By focusing on the readings, I think we would have been better prepared for the midterm and final. / always summarized what people had to say. / / Ariel is a great TA. He ran discussion section in a very organized manner, and was also great about replying to e-mailed questions. / / Ariel was great--he brought some organization to the material and really facilitated class discussion. / ariel was a very good ta. he was always prepared and was very knowledgable about the subject. he facilitated lively discussions, though his method of calling on everyone with their hand up and expecting them to remember that order was not very productive -- it was confusing, and made it hard to respond to something a student said. it was more like a forum than a discussion or debate -- effective in getting many people involved, but not neccessarily in stimulating discussion. overall, though, i thought sections with ariel were very helpful and that his instruction added a lot to the course. / Missed a few sections but ohter than that great! / Ariel is great-- laid back but also knowledgeable and engaging / Really great. Good at provoking discussion, maybe it's just the class material, but I feel like this is a rare skill. Very eager to help. / / exaggerating the classes views...in a good way. :) / Ariel did a great job facilitating discussion during section. He always e-mailed us questions to ponder ahead of time so that we had good ideas beforehand. Ariel was also very accommodating in terms of answering all of our questions, responding promptly to e-mails and holding frequent office hours. He also made us think critically and really analyze different ideas of national security -- overall, a great TA. / / / Quite frankly, I hate discussion sections. I find them to be a terrible waste of time for both the TAs and for most students. Ariel, however, was extremely nice and even managed to learn everyone's name within two weeks or so. He was always readily available and facilitated discussions pretty well. Despite my hatred of discussion sections, I managed to make my way through his without coming too close to wanting to stab myself in the eye with my pen. / ARIEL ROCKS -- He is only the BEST TA in any PoliSci

class I have ever had. Knowledgeable, lets students speak, facilitates conversation, fun, friendly, understanding, fair. He should get a raise. / Ariel is awesome. He knew the information but still let the students battle it out. He's also a good buddy. / / / Ariel Zellman was awesome. He was intelligent, personable, helpful, and an effective generator of discussion in sections. / Ariel was good at facilitating discussion. / Ariel performed admirably in the only Wednesday discussion section, bringing us swiftly through the facts and positions we needed to know to get to the meat of the discussion. His habit of postulating extremes also improved discussion. However, establishing a speaking order of 7-8 people is counter productive. it guarantees that a large portion of comments won't be timely and rather will drag the discussion back and forth in a chaotic collection of arguments taking place concurrently. Maybe smaller discussion sections would help ameliorate this. / Ariel was wonderful. He was always smiling and happy, and was very good at facilitating conversation in the discussion section. I cannot think of any weaknesses, he was great and always willing to help us out if we needed it. / Zellman is a great TA; willing to go out of his way to help his students. / Ariel is wonderful! He is really nice and knowledgeable about the subject. / Ariel is great at facilitating both lower energy and more intense class discussions - he is great at getting people going and highlighting the points and issues being discussed. I also think his positive/upbeat attitude and the clarity of his overall presentation of ideas made a huge difference - it is clear that he enjoys his field and wants us to enjoy it too. / Ariel was a really great TA. He really let us run discussion as a debate but kept it focus so that you were actually still learning something. / /

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