

This document summarizes the student evaluations I received as an instructor and teaching assistant (TA) at UCLA. At the end of each term, students were asked to provide responses to a series of questions and an overall rating of my teaching. Tables 1 and 2 show the overall ratings of the students who completed this evaluation form. While UCLA uses a nine-point scale, I converted these ratings to a ten-point scale for ease of interpretation. As not all students complete the course evaluations, in the last column I report the number of completed evaluations over the number of enrolled students.

INSTRUCTOR

I developed and taught four courses as the sole instructor in the Department of Political Science at UCLA. The student evaluations for three of these courses are summarized in Table 1. I do not report student evaluations for the fourth course because the Department did not collect them.

Table 1: Overall Instructor Rating by Course Based on Student Evaluations

Course	Quarter	Mean	Median	Responses
Teaching Political Science (graduate)	Fall 2015	10	10	8/10
International Politics of Human Rights	Spring 2017	9.17	10	12/15
World Politics	Summer 2017	8.89	10	18/37

The first class, “Teaching Political Science,” was a ten-week course for new TAs that I developed after being selected as the Department’s Teaching Consultant for the 2015-2016 academic year. The course covered pedagogical topics such as developing a lesson plan, classroom management, and active learning techniques, and built on material that I had developed for workshops through UCLA’s *Office of Instructional Development*.

“International Politics of Human Rights” was an undergraduate seminar for juniors and seniors that focused on how politics affects the fulfillment of human rights. This class drew heavily on my dissertation research—in fact, in week eight we discussed one of my dissertation chapters. It relied on student participation and had an important writing component. For example, each student served as discussion leader at least once and peer-reviewed another student’s work. In the second week of the quarter, students submitted a four-page report on a human rights crisis somewhere in the world. They then developed this report into a 15-page paper in which they applied the theories and skills they learned throughout the class to their particular crisis. The students received feedback on their paper drafts and then presented their findings during the last week of class.

In the summer of 2017, I taught the introductory international relations course for undergraduates in the Department. Although not structured as a seminar, classes required student participation and engagement. In addition to a midterm and final exam, students developed their writing skills by completing a written assignment analyzing Thucydides’ Melian dialogue from “The History of the Peloponnesian War.”

In addition to these courses, I was selected by UCLA's Department of Political Science to develop and teach a two-week course, "Mathematical Methods for Political Science," that served as a math refresher for incoming Ph.D. students. This course covered probability theory, calculus, and matrix algebra, among other topics. I taught this course for three consecutive summers.

As further evidence of my teaching effectiveness, I have collated a sample of unedited comments I received in the open-response section of the student evaluations. My complete course evaluations are available upon request.

"Andrea is a terrific instructor and knows exactly what she is hoping to relay and does it with great ease. Her expertise on the topic of human rights is connected to her passion for it which makes her a very reachable person in regards to asking questions. I enjoyed going to office hours this quarter just learning more about the topics we would discuss in class, which she would go into detail during office hours. In addition, as someone interested in going into human rights advocacy or research in the future, her input and advice has been incredibly helpful in my forming of my future career."

International Politics of Human Rights, Spring 2017

"I learned a lot from this seminar with Andrea Vilan. The content and materials of the class were well thought through and covered what I feel are the most relevant topics in political studies of human rights. Vilan is very good at communicating, explaining difficult theories in a more comprehensible way, and at facilitating the class discussions. She has also been really helpful outside the classroom for instance when I came to her office hours to discuss the assignments or other issues such as a future career in human rights. I felt that Vilan wanted us to learn as much as possible and I am really glad that I got the opportunity to participate in her class!"

International Politics of Human Rights, Spring 2017

"This instructor was very well organized and helpful answering questions. The course readings were a little hard to prioritize over others because of how well and comprehensively I felt that she taught the readings in lecture. The tests were very good challenges to our knowledge and being able to apply it to real world situations that we could not necessarily get from the book."

World Politics, Summer 2017

"The instructor was very effective in helping to navigate our first quarter as TAs. The instructor had a great enthusiasm for the course, and was quite knowledgeable about several different aspects of teaching. The instructor really cared about our learning. Additionally, the way the class was set up was excellent. It was very helpful that many classes were in a discussion format where we could talk about problems that came up in our experiences. In summary, both the instructor and the class were fantastic."

Teaching Political Science, Fall 2015

This year, at UCLA's *Center for American Politics and Public Policy* I am guiding students through the process of conducting original research, teaching students how to frame a research question, develop a theory and a feasible research strategy, gather data, and write

a 30-page paper. My research development seminar is part of a program through which UCLA's students travel for one quarter to Washington, DC, to complete internships at public interest organizations. Students complement this experience with the development of an original paper that draws on their courses and work experience. As the program accepts only 30 students from political science, sociology, history, and communication studies, it allows for individualized instruction and consultation in an interdisciplinary setting.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

As a TA at UCLA, I taught a wide variety of courses, including core classes in international relations; upper-division classes in international law, international organizations, and international relations theory; and methods courses at the graduate and undergraduate level, including game theory (*Politics and Strategy*), introduction to statistics, and the second course of the statistical sequence in the Ph.D. program at UCLA (*Statistical Methods II*). For each course, I developed original material for discussion sections, which enrolled 60 students on average. Each quarter, I chose to teach a different course to maximize my exposure to different topics, classroom settings, and teaching styles. Table 2 summarizes the overall ratings I received across sections as a TA. As in Table 1, I convert scores from a nine-point to a ten-point scale. For reference, the Department's overall TA average in 2016 was 8.48 over 10.

Table 2: Overall TA Rating by Course Based on Student Evaluations

Course	Quarter	Mean	Median	Responses
World Politics	Fall 2012	9.55	10	18/60
International Relations Theory	Winter 2013	9.09	10	27/56
Politics and Strategy	Spring 2013	9.36	10	17/54
World Politics	Fall 2013	9.3	8.89	26/59
Statistical Methods II (graduate)	Winter 2014	9.87	10	8/15
Introduction to Data Analysis	Spring 2014	9.66	10	19/43
International Law	Fall 2014	9.86	10	24/57
Foreign Policy Decision-Making	Winter 2015	9.41	10	21/54
International Organizations	Spring 2015	9.48	10	19/60
Globalization: Governance & Conflict	Winter 2017	9.15	10	39/59

My consistently high evaluations across a diverse range of subject matters and levels is evidence of my strength and versatility as an instructor. To provide another perspective on my teaching performance, I reproduce some unedited comments from graduate and undergraduate students in the next page:

“Andrea is a great TA! She’s very concerned with student learning, and she routinely asks for feedback and adjusts her teaching style to students needs. The way she structured section was a perfect supplement to the course - just the right amount of reviewing the lecture materials combined with expansion of ideas. Her biggest strength was making terms and material from the lectures more accessible to each student (explaining terms more in depth than the professor could). She did a great job of connecting the concepts to real world examples based on her own research and personal experiences, thus improving the learning experience and making it more unique. She’s engaging and extremely knowledgeable. Makes a good point of not banking i.e. asks questions and facilitates actual discussion. No major weaknesses.”

Globalization, International Development Studies program, Winter 2017

“Andrea’s discussions were well-laid out. Discussion of the texts was crucial to my understanding of the readings. She was concise and deliberate, forcing us to think during sections rather than spoon-feeding us the answers. Super responsive to my emails throughout the quarter re: the readings as well. I felt she actually care about our learning; in the last week she even created handouts to help us understand concepts that were difficult. I really appreciated her help as my TA!”

International Organizations, Spring 2015

“For this course, the TA helped me a great deal in understanding the mathematical concepts and homework. She works very hard and extremely helpful for all students.”

Statistical Methods II, graduate class, Winter 2014

“Andrea is such a wonderful TA. She gave a guest lecture which I enjoyed very much. I loved her discussion sections as they were very helpful in reviewing and condensing difficult subjects. Depending on the day, she will either make a chart for us to fill in to help organize information, have us read supplementary readings in groups and summarize them for the class, or have a very inclusive discussion. I really enjoyed this discussion, and I always felt welcome to participate!”

Globalization, International Development Studies program, Winter 2017

“Andrea was not only extremely knowledgeable of the class material, but also was very skilled in explaining concepts that most students struggled to understand in lecture. She was very approachable and helpful. She made all the difference in my success in this course.”

Introduction to Data Analysis, Spring 2014

“Andrea has been extremely helpful this quarter. Always concerned about the students’ understanding, she is patient and willing to explain a concept multiple times, trying to approach it from a new perspective each time to help the student grasp an idea. She is always very helpful in office hours, and is even willing to stay past the scheduled office hours time to continue helping students if they still have questions. She responds to emails in a timely manner, and is really thorough in her answers to questions. It is clear she really cares about student learning. The best TA I’ve had at UCLA thus far.”

Politics and Strategy, Spring 2013