

What aspects of this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching were most helpful to you?

Comments
I found Sara's management of discussion to be very effective and informed. Her weekly emails outlining what would be required during section also helped me stay on top of coursework greatly.
SARA IS AMAZING. Sara was incredibly communicative, encouraging, and clear with what she wanted out of our reflections and discussions. In small group discussions, Sara recognized when one person/people were dominating the conversation, and immediately would bring someone else into the conversation. Sara achieved something difficult in such a large class: she made everyone feel seen.
See evaluation for PSCI 1103 01
lead greta discussions
Thank you for helping us become better writers with the feedback you gave us on the reading/discussion reflections. Also, you did a great job facilitating the discussion sections.
Sara was amazing.
Sara is super knowledgeable and cares a lot about our learning
She was a great TA
Her availability was helpful to getting my feet grounded in the course.

How can this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching be improved?

Comments
I thought she did a great job this semester.
I truly cannot think of a way to improve Sara's teaching. She was lovely.
See evaluation for PSCI 1103 01
No suggestions.
Not sure

What aspects of this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching were most helpful to you?

Comments
The question she asks during discussion section.
Asking more specific guiding questions to help us think about the big picture Discussion format Responding to emails quickly Always being available to help/talk through course material
The feedback I got on the 2x /week papers was helpful and I feel helped me improve my writing. I appreciated that Sara checked in halfway through the semester using a poll about how we get feedback on the papers. This was totally unexpected but more TAs should do this! Sara was really engaged and encouraging during Friday discussion groups, and did a good job of stimulating discussion when it got slow (Friday mornings...). Putting students into breakout rooms and checking in on each one periodically was effective.
She really did a good job in facilitating our discussions on Fridays and made sure we understood everything. She also made sure that everybody felt comfortable sharing their thoughts in the smaller group.
Sara created a really efficient interactive/collaborative environment in discussion sections, allowing me to share my ideas with my fellow classmates.
Easy to contact and very accessible.
Sara creates a very welcoming environment in the discussion meetings.
She was always very willing to take questions of any type and to make sure that we had the opportunity in discussion to focus on what we wanted.

How can this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching be improved?

Comments
Sara is very supportive. I personally would like to get more feedback for the reading reflection/discussion, but I should actively ask for that in office hour.
I've had her for two classes now and she's been amazing both times!
Examples of good/less good papers could be shown at the beginning of the semester or posted on Brightspace.
n/a
N/A — Sara always responded to my questions and provided good feedback on assignments for improvement!
N/A, she was wonderful!
Sara is absolutely wonderful, I cannot think of ways for her to improve.
I think that this is very very difficult over zoom, so I think she did a great job. But more general flow without hand-raising or very targeted questions for certain sections might have been helpful.

What aspects of this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching were most helpful to you?

Comments
Sara did a phenomenal job of creating a classroom environment where students could feel comfortable asking questions & participating by offering guiding questions and connections to modern topics. Especially in a Zoom environment, this was so impressive and helpful to me!
N.A.
She led discussions very well. She used class time effectively and in an engaging manner that allowed all students to participate/ Putting us into breakout rooms
She guided discussions very well during our sections and was able to connect a lot of what the students were saying to each other. She also encouraged a lot of discussions which made it easier to speak out during sections
Sara is so kind and personable and genuinely cares about everything you have to say. She is great at interacting with text and tying in modern ideas, and she is able to find creative ways to engage student.
She is obviously very passionate about the subject matter which made me feel comfortable in sections.

How can this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching be improved?

Comments
N/A – Sara is phenomenal! I would have loved to hear more about how the class connected to her own research/expertise, though.
N.A.
n/a she always made herself available for office hours and cared a lot for her students.
By being a very good teaching assistant
Absolutely nothing, she is wonderful.
N/A

What aspects of this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching were most helpful to you?

Comments
Sara's creates a welcoming environment in the discussion sections. I felt comfortable contributing to the discussions.
Good a facilitating interesting conversation and keeping us involved in the discussion.
I like how she asked more specific guiding questions to help us think about the bigger picture. She also responded to emails very quickly and was always available to help if needed.
Great flows to the discussion, understanding of the times and student's attitudes especially early in the morning.
Sara's teaching was great and only made this course better.
Well-created questions and sections!
Sara always did a great job of challenging us to connect class concepts to modern issues and ideas. For me, this was super helpful for gaining a better understanding of concepts and grasping their relevance. She also created a very comfortable environment during discussion sections where students could feel comfortable speaking up or asking questions. Especially over Zoom, this was very impressive to me!
The facilitation of the discussions during Friday sections was helpful in terms of getting me to think about the course content in news ways, and especially in applying it to real life. I also appreciated the positive verbal feedback in discussion sections; it helped me build up my confidence and speak more in our section. This year I struggled a lot with anxiety regarding speaking/participating in classes over Zoom, and I was grateful for a Zoom environment in which I felt comfortable enough contributing to the discussion.
The guiding questions asked in discussion
Putting us into breakout rooms
Sara was super responsive in her emails and she gave very constructive feedback for each assignment. She also encouraged critical thinking and discussion during sections.
Responsive and gave great feedback
Sara has been extremely helpful and I enjoyed all the discussions very much. Thanks Sara!
I enjoyed the responses she gave students after they talked in the discussion.
Sara gives great feedback on all the homework assignments. She created a really welcoming environment for the class sections and encouraged everyone to speak. She never made anyone feel embarrassed for saying something wrong and overall lead a great discussion. Sara is an awesome teacher!!
Kirshbaum was very easy to reach if I had questions, and during section meetings, she was very positive and eager to facilitate conversation.
The feedback on the reading and discussion reflections was thorough and helpful for developing my writing skills.

How can this teaching assistant's (Sara Kirshbaum) teaching be improved?

Comments
I cannot think of ways for Sara to improve.
With zoom this is especially difficult, but more free flow and Harkness style discussion would be nice
I've had her as a TA for two classes now and she's honestly done an awesome job both times!
You are all anyone can hope for in a TA. Keep being you!
N/A. She did a masterful job
Nothing to say! I really enjoyed discussion section, and Sara did a great job of encouraging us to participate through a combination of class/group work and effective guiding questions.
I found the pre-discussion emails useful for knowing what to expect during our section and anticipating things that would come up/things I wanted to say; sending more of those might be beneficial to future students.
More feedback on the writing assignment?
By being a very good teaching assistant.
Sara spoke a little fast, but otherwise, she was amazing!
Not sure
I think her teaching is great! It has been cool seeing her become more comfortable in her teaching/facilitating role in class discussions throughout the semester.
I enjoyed Kirshbaum's teaching very much, but I would maybe recommend she allows for more conversation during the discussion sections. Often it felt like students would just spit out their ideas on topics without responding to what another student had said previously.
No suggestions.