

Teaching Evaluations

This document contains my official Teaching Assistant and Instructor evaluations. I was a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to American Politics (Poli 100) for two semesters where I led three weekly recitation sections. I served as the primary Instructor for this course in Spring 2019. For one semester I served as a TA for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Poli 130), leading three weekly recitation sections. Finally, I was the Instructor for “Collecting & Analyzing Text Data in R,” a two-day short course offered through the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill administers course evaluations with an online survey that prompts students to answer questions on their class experience and provides the option leave an open-ended comment. Each question is answered on a 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) scale. A selection of questions are presented in the table below. Cells with an “NA” value indicate that a question was not asked on that class’s course evaluation.

Teaching Evaluations Summary	<i>TA – Intro to American (Poli 100)</i>	<i>TA – Intro to Comparative Politics (Poli 130)</i>	<i>Instructor – Intro to American (Poli 100)</i>	<i>Instructor – Data in Politics I (Poli 281; FA 2019)</i>	<i>Instructor – Data in Politics I (Poli 281; SP 2020)</i>	<i>Average Rating</i>
Shows an enthusiasm for teaching	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Encourages student questions	NA	NA	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.7
Learned a great deal from this class	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5
Encourages students to think critically	NA	NA	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7
Instructor was well prepared for class	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Instructor was an effective teacher	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5	NA	4.6
Overall, this course was excellent	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.3
Overall, this instructor was excellent	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.6
% Responded	42%	35%	30%	42%	33%	

In each evaluation there is the following prompt: “Please offer your teaching associate / instructor positive feedback, suggestions for change, and any other comments you have about his/her performance.” A selection of student evaluations to this optional, open-ended prompt for each course taught are presented below:

Data in Politics I (Poli 281; Spring 2020) — Instructor

- I cannot speak more highly of Rachel. She is passionate, intelligent, and understanding. Her lectures are interesting and informative. She is available to answer any and all questions and she does so in a manner that is always helpful and never condescending. I felt very comfortable asking her for guidance throughout online learning and believe she is one of the best instructors I have had at UNC. She provided us with feedback, graded in a timely manner, and always made sure the course load was manageable for all students.
- Rachel was one of the best instructors I have had at UNC.
- Rachel was flexible, kind, and accessible as an instructor. Her goal was that she truly wanted the students to understand the material. She cared about how students were doing during the transition, not only with the class material, but the entire transition in general. She handled the transition to online learning incredibly well, and I felt like I didn't miss a second of class.
- Rachel is full of energy in class. This energized me as a student, she was a joy to learn from. She gives so much time to students in office hours and genuinely cares about our understanding of the material. I felt like I got a lot of individualized help when I needed it which incredibly increased the benefit I got from this course. I did not expect to like this course as much as I did, but Rachel made it great.
- Rachel was an excellent teacher. She taught the class by giving ample examples that made the material easy to digest and understand. She would step through confusing topics and ask for collaboration from the class to make sure we were learning the topics correctly. She held extensive office hours and would spend a lot of effort to make sure I understood the topics she was showing me. She never let an assignment go by without being explained, in full, after the due date. This made me feel comfortable that I was not missing topics.
- Rachel was by far the most effective professor I had during this semester. She upheld our schedule with classes and office hours but created a slightly more manageable course load for us. She taught us during live sessions but recorded them so we could view them later. She also was very available to zoom us individually with questions.

Data in Politics I (Poli 281; Fall 2019) — Instructor

- Rachel was always available to meet with, helpful in reinforcing material outside of class during office hours, and knew how to teach the material so that everyone could understand some of the difficult concepts.
- Rachel is really great at being approachable and giving reasonable and helpful feedback. She reminds us often to not get discouraged, which is super important in a difficult and challenging class like this one. I think she does a great job at knowing what pace to teach at, when a student is confused and doesn't want to show it, and is really great at being patient with those who need more explanation.
- Rachel created a very low stress environment for students and genuinely wanted us all to understand the material. She provided ample opportunities to visit her in office hours and get her feedback throughout the course

Introduction to American Politics (Poli 100; Spring 2018) — Instructor

- She did a phenomenal job of teaching a highly polarized political atmosphere from a neutral standpoint with a neutral agenda of topics to cover.
- Very engaging, highly interesting and motivated teacher. Made coming to class in the evening worth it because it was always interesting.
- Great professor who is engaging, enthusiastic, and accepting of her students and questions. remained very politically neutral and sensitive despite it being a class about politics so kudos. Even when my questions were stupid as hell she never berated them.

Introduction to American Politics (Poli 100) — Teaching Assistant

- I thought that Rachel did a great job as the TA for this course, handling class discussions skillfully, even when the students did not want to participate. She was engaging, knowledgeable, helpful, and approachable. One of the best TA's I've had at Carolina, I would say.
- I love Rachel! I have so greatly been inspired by her expertise in the field of political science and the help she has offered me in office hours, both inside and out. I will miss her greatly and wish her the best of luck in her future.
- Honestly Rachel is one of my favorite TAs at UNC. Not only is she funny and engaging but she is more than willing to help. She relates very well to students and I really appreciate that. I always looked forward to attending recitation because I always learned something new.
- Rachel was extremely knowledgeable and a great lecturer. She fully understood the material and kept the recitations interesting and easy to follow. I felt like I learned a lot after every time she taught the recitation. I would like for her to have more accessible office hours but that was because she offered one hour during MWF during a time that I had class so it was hard for me to make it to them. Overall, amazing performance as a TA.
- Rachel was extremely passionate and knowledgeable about American government and it showed. Her excitement for the subject made the students more engaged in learning and more willing to contribute to the discussion. I thought that she presented the material in a way that captured students' interests and made them curious about the subject. I feel like I genuinely learned a great deal from this class. The paper topics were unique and easy to write about, and more interesting than a regular academic essay.

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Poli 130) — Teaching Assistant

- Rachel was AMAZING! Best TA I have had at Carolina. She presented all of the material very clearly and really engaged the class with thoughtful questions. This class was great in terms of the lecture but was made complete through the recitations led by Rachel.
- I think Rachel is wonderful. She is helpful, bright, and she relates well to the students and goes over concepts in ways which are helpful to me. She really does want each student to succeed. No negative comments at all
- Rachel was one of the best instructors I have had at UNC, better than many professors.