

Online Course Evaluations

2016-Spring

Teaching Fellow
E&EB 225 01
Evolutionary Biology

Q:

Was the relationship between the section (if any) and the course effective, and how could it be improved? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his/her teaching be improved? (*Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s) and your teaching assistant, and by administrators responsible for evaluating their teaching.*)

Responses:

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

LARRY IS SO GOOD. He is such a good teacher. Hands down best TA I've ever had. This is the only section I've ever taken at Yale that I've been excited to go to!!!!!! He always had hands on activities and was really great at facilitating the discussion in such a way as to keep us all engaged for an hour (which is hard to do since we're college students, haha). Discussion helped me SO much--I walked away from section every week knowing so much more about the papers we'd read and the overall aim of the course. If it's possible to give Larry a raise please do so!

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

I liked the structure of the section -- it was helpful and interesting to read the papers, and the summaries we prepared were useful and not overwhelming. Larry did an excellent job of allowing us to take the lead in section while still being a great resource, answering our questions and explaining concepts in new ways. I also really liked the way Larry structured section, allowing us to prepare an outline of what we wanted to talk about at the beginning of each section.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

The section was very beneficial. Probably one of the most relevant sections I have had at Yale.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

I thought Larry did a really good job of facilitating discussion, answering questions and laying down a foundation before launching into discussion of the papers. I think the policy of not collecting summaries until someone speaks can feel extremely confrontational and stressful for students who don't feel comfortable speaking (though I know it wasn't Larry's idea and I think he did a good job of making it easy to participate).

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was great at engaging the class! At the beginning of class, Larry would leave the classroom for 5 minutes to allow students to discuss points of interest/difficulty re: the scientific papers that week. This let the students talk among ourselves and brainstorm, fostering a pretty lively discussion for the remainder of class. So much better than other sections I have been in where the TA struggles to get anyone to talk. I really, really liked our section! Learned a lot and Larry was very approachable.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Papers - when related to a topic in class - did help with comprehension of class topics. I wish discussion section devoted a little more time to review of topics covered that week. Larry: I really appreciated your obvious willingness to help and explain concepts and give us new ways with which to approach ideas. When we got more specific feedback on our papers, that was awesome. Some suggestions going forward: I can't really think of anything big but one thing is we did the thing with the index cards and then we didn't get the one about what we should do for the next test back before the next test. Also sometimes the card thing felt a bit random.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry is a really gifted pedagogue: razor-sharp, knows his material cold, and quick to understand and respond to questions (and even the general vibe in the room). It was a real pleasure to have him.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Declined to Answer

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Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was a fantastic TF. He did a great job helping us use what we learned in class to do close readings of scientific literature. He created a discussion section environment in which everyone felt comfortable sharing ideas and learning from each other. He also made himself very available to us outside class and always did a great job explaining difficult concepts.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Declined to Answer

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Section was well-organized, and the material covered in section was applicable to the course itself. Larry did a wonderful job in leading section and was knowledgeable (with regards to how he answered questions, etc.).

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

The relationship between section and the course was normally effective. Sometimes the papers felt unrelated class that week or too focused on methodology we had not learned about. Larry handled section very well. The discussions were always interesting, and the summaries made us all read the papers thoroughly. Topics we didn't cover in class were explained well in section.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Great at answering questions and explaining concepts. Seemed a bit unapproachable at times.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Declined to Answer

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry's section was always fun and engaging. I felt I learned a lot in his section.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was a great TA. He was very knowledgeable about the course material and beyond and really approachable. Section with him was super chill and fostered great discussions.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry Bowman was just wonderful. Possibly the most creative and dedicated STEM section leader that I've ever had. He always came prepared, was invested in helping us learn the material, and had a wonderful attitude. I can't speak highly enough of him.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was a great TA! I think he genuinely cared about doing a good job for the class, and was really helpful. Once, before the final midterm, he stayed with me past his office hours to answer my questions. The way he structured each section was engaging, and he was knowledgeable and always had a good answer for our questions.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was a great TF. His dry-ish sense of humor and easiness around students created a really comfortable atmosphere in section. His tendency to openly approach the papers we read with a skeptical eye encouraged our critical thinking, and I think made us better scientists. He seemed to care a lot. I learned a great deal in section, and I think it really complemented the class.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was WONDERFUL. Whatever they're doing in that science-TF-improvement program is really great because the different activities Larry had us doing (especially at the beginning of class) were really engaging. He's great on-one-on, he's great at leading and navigating class discussions, and based on that one lecture he gave, he's great at lecturing too. I think he'll make a great prof one day.

Instructor: Larry Lee Bowman

Larry was great. I'm very glad to have gotten to learn from him and I think he will be a wonderful instructor. I looked forward to section every week and felt like he cared that I understood what was going on. I wish I would have utilized his office hours during the semester not just the last session because he's very helpful and knowledgeable.
