

## Course evaluations for PS-0021 Intro to Comparative Politics, Spring 2016 – Excerpts

I served as the Teaching Assistant for all 3 sections of PS-0021 Intro to Comparative Politics in the Spring 2016 semester at Tufts University. The official online course evaluations conducted by the university for this semester did not include specific questions about the teaching assistant or recitation sections. However, students did refer to these aspects of the course in two of the voluntary open-ended questions available. Copied below are those relevant excerpts from the course evaluations. The reply rate for the complete course evaluation survey was 45/67 (67%).

**7. What aspects of this course worked best to facilitate your learning?** (22 total responses received; below are the 11 responses that addressed the TA or recitations.)

- Kumar, the TA, was fantastic. His knowledge of the subject was extensive, and he always had answers to my questions!
- the recitations
- The lecture and the recitation were the best ways for me to learn. Many of the readings were dense or dry, and only made full sense to me after discussion in class or recitation.
- I think that recitations, not the questions, really facilitated learning.
- Lectures were the most useful, as well as recitation sections, where we could ask clarifying questions and discuss what we heard in lecture or read.
- The class is incredibly well-organized, well-structured in that it provides detailed and clear guidelines for almost everything (each lecture, reading, test and paper assignment is well-explained) and the arrangement of the class is logical and progressive. TA is extremely helpful, enthusiastic and good at engaging discussions.
- discussion in recitation, lecture slides
- The recitations really helped solidify my knowledge.
- The lectures really helped to make sure that the reading was understandable and that the material was manageable. The recitations were also quite helpful to make sure that we understood specific parts of the readings that we didn't have time to review in class.
- Lectures were thorough and well organized; Kumar was an excellent TA and really helped to clarify the readings.
- The discussions during recitation

**16. Please provide any additional comments regarding the instructor.** (15 responses received; question was specifically about the professor, but the below 4 responses also addressed the TA.)

- Prof. Shevel and Kumar are both great. Kumar is very helpful and understanding of any problems I or my friends have had. He is patient and you can tell he really wants everyone to understand the material.
- Both Professor Shevel and Kumar were really great- always really helpful and easy to talk to, and made it so much easier to get through the large amount of material we studied.
- Sheval was very knowledgeable, but she always ran behind in her lectures. Putting us at a constant state of trying to catch up. Something I personally do not like in a class. Also, feedback on exams was vague at some points. I had to discuss with TA multiple times to make sure I understood. (which I am still unsure that I do now)
- Professor Shevel was the best professor ever! Very understanding and helpful. Kumar (TA) was also great!