Report Comments

Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin
The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. The two sets of scales used for core evaluation questions and the associated weights are:

Strongly Agree (5)
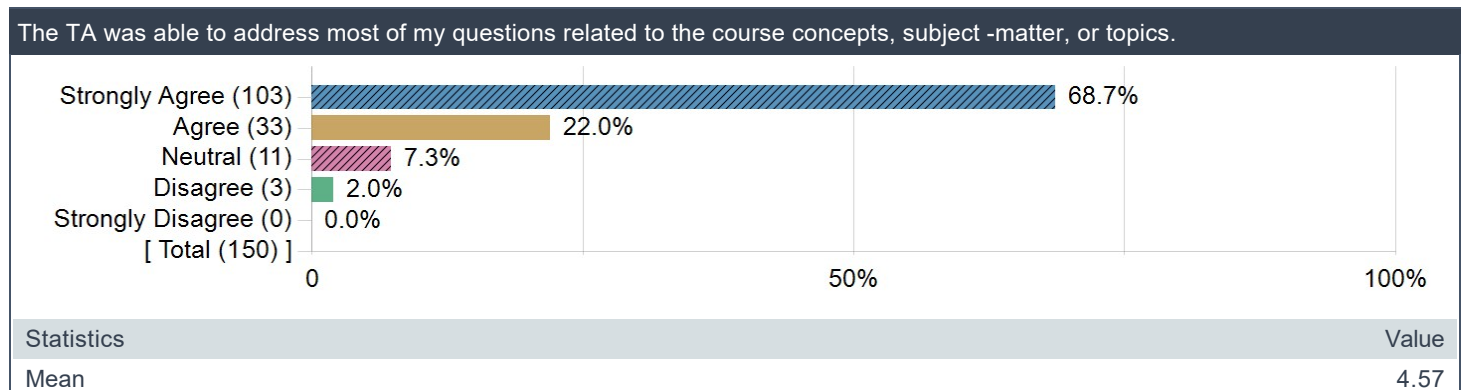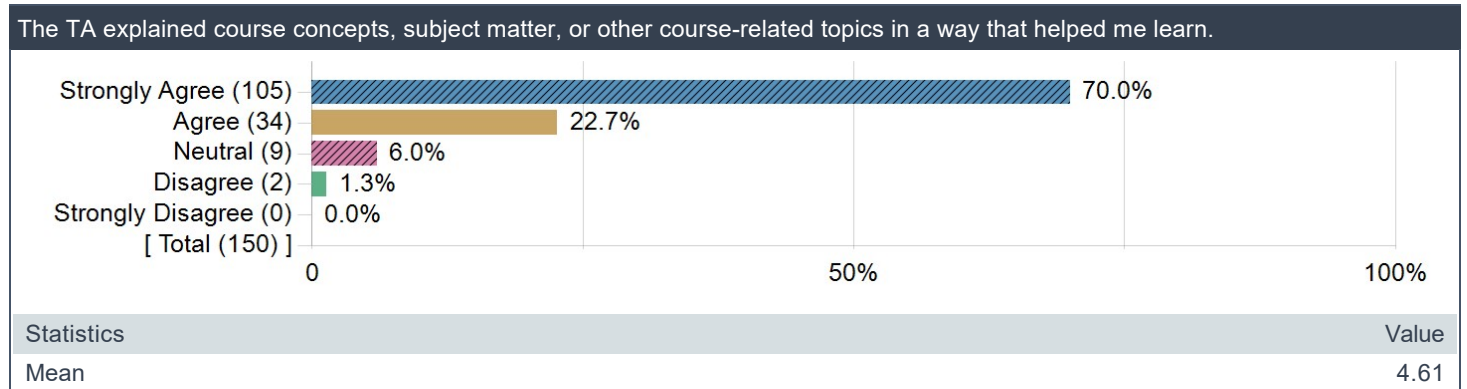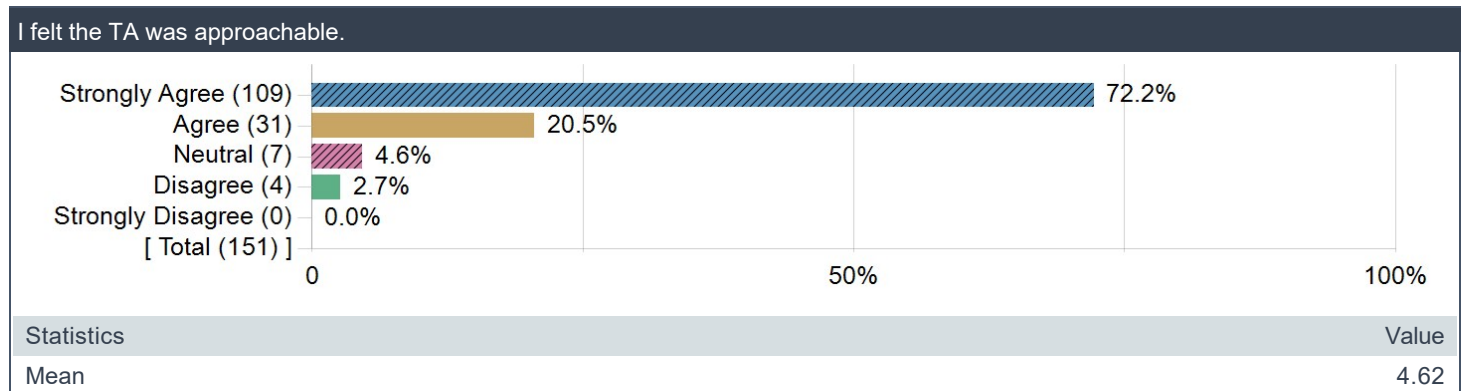Agree (4)
Neutral (3)
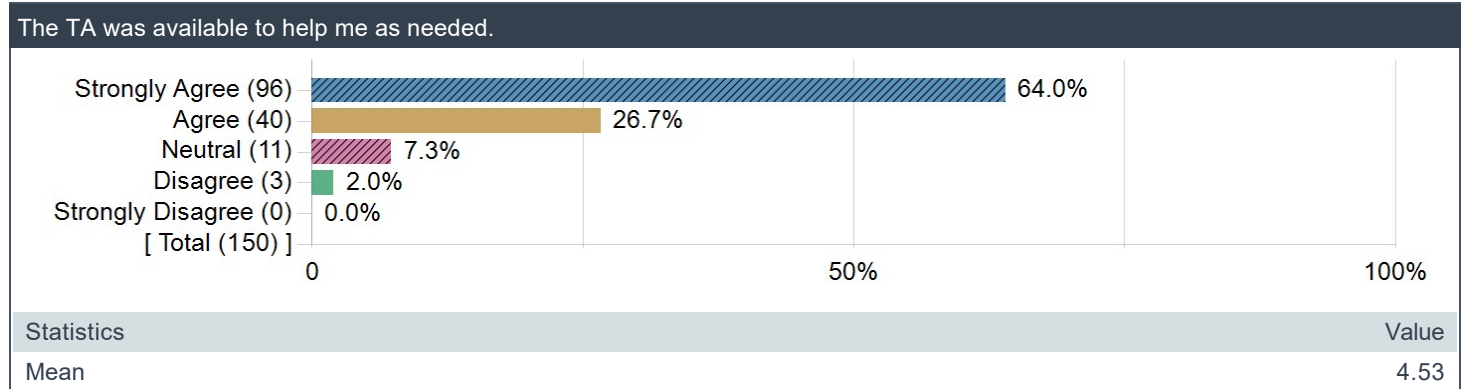Disagree (2)
Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)
Very Good (4)
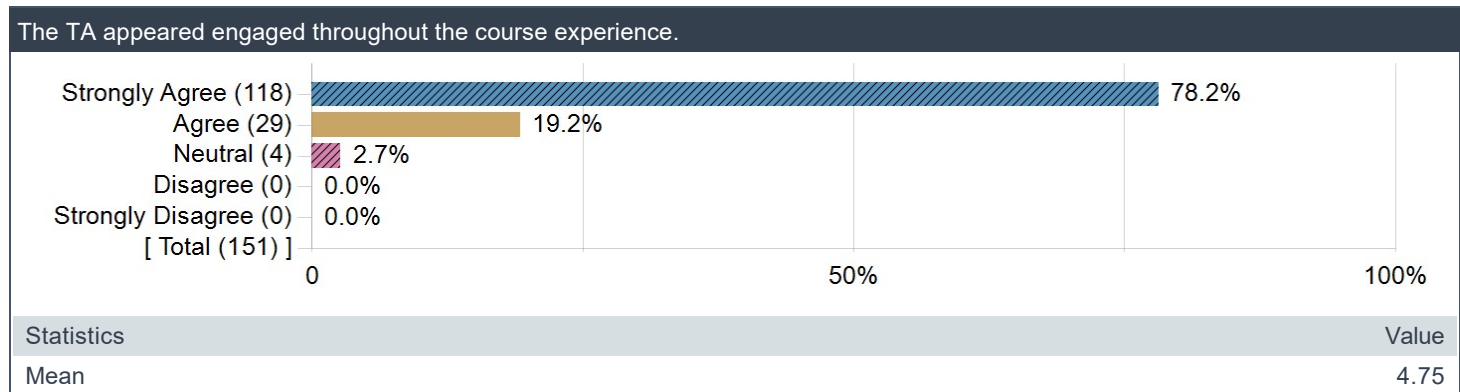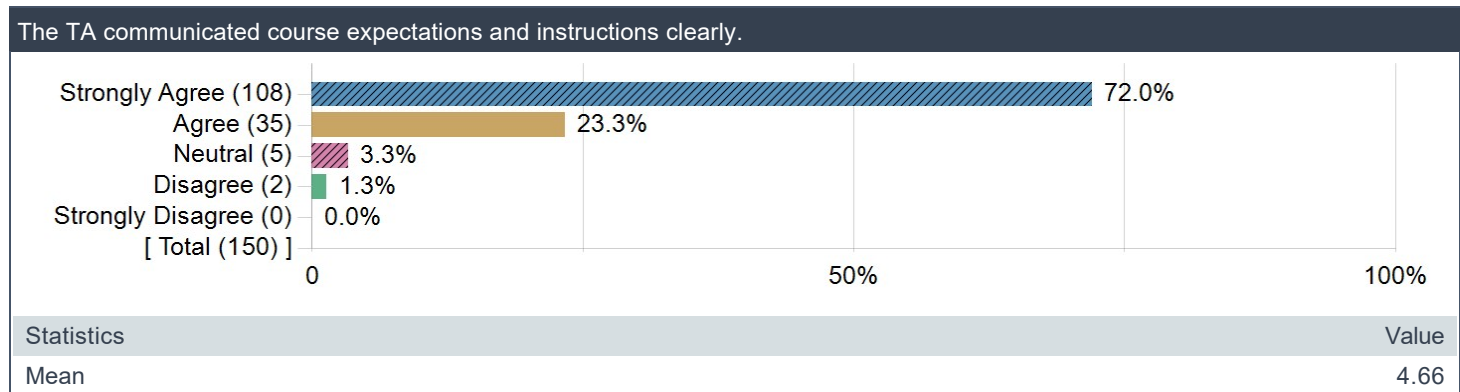Satisfactory (3)
Unsatisfactory (2)
Very Unsatisfactory (1)

The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

The number of students (e.g. respondents) marking each option is reported for each of the items. These frequency distributions provide information about the level of student ratings and the spread and shape of the class distribution of responses. The distributions thus provide a picture of student perception of a course.

Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no individual method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor.

Teaching Assistant Questions

The TA was available to help me as needed.

Strongly Agree (96) — 64.0%
Agree (40) — 26.7%
Neutral (11) — 7.3%
Disagree (3) — 2.0%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (150)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.53

I felt the TA was approachable.

Strongly Agree (109) — 72.2%
Agree (31) — 20.5%
Neutral (7) — 4.6%
Disagree (4) — 2.7%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (151)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.62

The TA explained course concepts, subject matter, or other course-related topics in a way that helped me learn.

Strongly Agree (105) — 70.0%
Agree (34) — 22.7%
Neutral (9) — 6.0%
Disagree (2) — 1.3%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (150)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.61

The TA was able to address most of my questions related to the course concepts, subject -matter, or topics.

Strongly Agree (103) — 68.7%
Agree (33) — 22.0%
Neutral (11) — 7.3%
Disagree (3) — 2.0%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (150)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.57

The TA communicated course content and subject matter with accuracy.

Strongly Agree (106) — 70.7%
Agree (39) — 26.0%
Neutral (4) — 2.7%
Disagree (1) — 0.7%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (150)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67

The TA communicated course expectations and instructions clearly.

Strongly Agree (108) — 72.0%
Agree (35) — 23.3%
Neutral (5) — 3.3%
Disagree (2) — 1.3%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (150)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.66

The TA appeared engaged throughout the course experience.

Strongly Agree (118) — 78.2%
Agree (29) — 19.2%
Neutral (4) — 2.7%
Disagree (0) — 0.0%
Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.0%
[Total (151)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.75

Comment Questions

Identify aspects of your interactions with your teaching assistant that were most effective in helping your learning.

Comments
Paul would help alot during lecture
Paul answered almost every question in the chat– simple or difficult!
Paul was very helpful and wanted us to succeed.
he answered messages quickly
Paul constantly filled Canvas with important updates that were necessary in my understanding of the material.
He would always explain problems both me and the class didn't understand.
n/a
Answered questions live while in class quickly
His attention to the chat questions

Comments
Communicative
Paul was helpful and flexible in answering questions during class time. He would point out key things we need to remember or examples to help understand better.
I did not have any
Detailed explanations of the concepts via class–chat.
Answering questions in the live chat throughout the lecture helped address questions as they came up.
N/a
He was very approachable and always had a very easy way to explain hard concepts.
– His back and forth with students in the chat during classes was very helpful
Very helpful during the exam in making sure that we knew exactly what was going on; very quick to respond in the chat
He was great at answering student's questions.
I didn't interact with him
good moderator
Very kind and understanding, tried to explain things in helpful and new ways.
He was always quick to respond and so helpful!
He would always be active in the class chat and was able to answer any questions any student had
no
Stepped in with a different perspective or approach when a subject was difficult to understand
It was helpful when Paul used the live class chat to communicate with students and answer our questions during class as they arose. He was able to explain content in a different way than the teachers at times which was super helpful to get another viewpoint.
He helped a lot by answering questions in chat and giving tips to help us understand concepts.
Paul was a helpful supplement to the class and was always actively engaging with the chat which is especially helpful for the online students. He explained concepts furhtoermore to make sense of them.
Love Paul, he always found ways to explain the topic we were covering in simpler words and made an effort to help every single person who asked questions in the chat as quickly as possible.
I didn't really reach out to Paul for course assistance, but he always answered emails very quickly.
Great chat moderator. On a serious note, he knows what he's talking about, and he's passionate. What more could you want from a TA?
How he answered our questions.
The live chat was most appreciated, Paul was very funny and interactive.
Answered as many questions as possible in the in class chat
Paul was always in the chats answering questions from us students, and he was nice and informative when doing so.
He helped me with some material which was difficult for me.
The most effective in help my learning was quickly responding messages or questions
He was always quick and ready to help us understand in the chat, really like Paul, best TA ever!
Paul clarifying concepts live in chat during instruction and answering our questions, as well as reiterating key concepts. Being a chill guy himself made me want to come into class just to talk to him.
Paul is so sweet and lovely that asking him any questions never seemed scary. He is super knowledgeable and answers all questions timely and correctly. He also goes out of his way to be extra kind to everyone!
I did not have any specific interactions with this TA, but I was able to listen to him in studio and hear his separate perspective from the professors.
He was helpful right before the exam.
He would help explain topics when I was confused.
his questions answered in the main chat
He would test out definitions when we missed them because the lesson got too fast.
He helped us in the chat whenever we had questions.
Any time I would ask questions during the class or over email, he provided very clear and helpful answers that were effective in broadening my overall understanding of economics.

Comments
n/a
Clear announcements, easy to reach through class chat at all times
Help during lectures
Paul always answered all of our questions in the chat and was always ready to be there for any issues we had.
I liked his accent it made me pay attention.
Paul was great at keeping up with the live stream chat and answering many students' questions.
Explanation of rules
He was active and present during all lectures and was available for questions throughout.
They were engaged in the meetings and assisted students with questions in the chat
Asking him questions during lecture if missing a definition or explanation.
Paul always explained things in the chat during class and was there whenever any student needed help
I did not ever contact or talk to any TAs for help, but he was my in–class TA and he always was very nice and seemed very easy to talk to.
Patience
Just being able to talk to Paul while class was going to clear up some questions that the other students and I had was really helpful.
Cool guy.
N/A because I was online.
Paul would sometimes re–word ideas that Dirk or Wayne presented, and offer ways that helped him remember the concept. I specifically remember the time Dirk was talking about how the relationship between a consumer and demand is always a negative one (elastic, unitary, inelastic demand), and he doesn't like it when the number is expressed as a positive. Paul remarked that it's expressed that way because some people use the absolute value. So, that was helpful when I had tutoring sessions at Sanger with students who had other Econ professors who teach the positive (absolute value) number. It kept me from getting confused and lost.
helpful in answering questions in chat box when necessary
They were very responsive
Good at explaining difficult concepts
He would always be in the chat, ready to answer questions respectfully and clearly.
N/A
Didnt interact but he was cool online
N/A
Responded very quickly
He always answered questions in the all chat.
He was helpful in answering questions and giving additional feedback in the class chat.
Paul was very active in the stream chat especially when he extrapolated on topics learned during the stream.
The chat during class; he was very attentive.
Helped. With questions
This dude was just chill af. He was a super down to earth guy and was super educated in economics.
He helped with answering questions in the online chat
not sure if we were suppose to be assigned a specific one or not, but Paul was the only one that actually interacted. he was the only TA that i interacted with, and that was during the live chat
Even though, I never got the chance to talk to Paul directly he seemed very approachable and answered the questions in the chat very well.
Paul was very available during lectures to answer questions regarding the information on the slides or the in–class assignments we'd do.
I would ask questions throughout the online class in the group messages and he would respond to my questions clearly in a way that was easy to understand.
The TA effectively answered my questions during live class chats.
Paul Is one of the best teaching assistants in the entire world. He explains topics very well and articulates on the most important topics in class. Overall, he is an outstanding and caring TA.

Comments
Approachability definitely made it easy to bring up questions to him.
helpful
Paul was very responsive with emails and communicated any updates throughout the course very well. He made it clear that he was available for questions or concerns at any point and it helped during my learning process because I knew I had someone I could go to for any clarification.
N/A
N/A
Paul was friendly and very engaging, which helped a lot with learning the material.
Aspects that were most effective was when I had a question on the topic during the live stream and someone else had asked the same question I had in the chat he answered it with a good explanation of the topic/concept.
N/A
I did not interact directly with Paul.
n/a
Always answered questions and kept the class entertaining.
I did not have a chance to interact with Paul this semester
The chat function that Paul oversaw and responded to questions that students had was the most effective in my learning. He was quick to respond.
Being available to the students
Paul was the only TA i had communication with and he was very helpful in explaining everything i struggled with
He was just great
Did a great job
Paul was able to explain concepts in a way that led to it being easier to comprehend the course material. Paul also did a great job in running the Kahoots and explaining some of the questions/graphs that were confusing at first.
In the online chat that was going on in real time alongside the lecture, Paul was able to explain concepts that I was confused about in concise terms which allowed me to better understand the information in the lectures.
You were active in the chat and explained concepts pretty well.
office hour
Case–based learning

What is one thing the teaching assistant could do differently to help improve future students' learning in this course?

Comments
Be more interactive during office hours
Hmm I can't think of anything to be honest.
Nothing he was amazing and kind.
nothing
N/A
I think he could host more online sessions for review.
n/a
n/a
n/a
N/A
Nothing, he was great!
nothing
Nothing
none
N/a
Nothing

Comments
– Nothing!
n/a
There isn't anything I can think of off the top of my head.
Nothing
more hours
Maybe if they created practice/ review problems? Otherwise they did very well.
Hm... he did a great job! Maybe post the chats after class so I can look back at the answers.
I think he did a great job and can't think of anything for him to improve
no
Cannot say anything bad!
Nothing! Great TA
Sometimes the timing on the in class assignments was a bit messy, so instead they could maybe use an assignment platform that had an integrated timer.
N/A he was amazing!
I can't really think of anything that could make him better. He did an amazing job.
Nothing. Paul's great.
He was great.
Be available for office hours.
n/a
I would love to meet him in person, but aside from that, he's great!
Be even more open to the students and continue to do well with helping others complete their work and understand difficult assignments.
NA
Nothing, he did great!
Keep doing what he does and make his gains.
Nothing, he was awesome!
There is not much that I would say the TA could do, but the students should reach out more to their TA if they need feedback or clarification on assignments and due dates.
Nothing.
He just did not do very much.
perfect
Nothing, he did amazing!
Nothing really he is a really great TA.
Not applicable.
n/a
N/A
N/A
I think Paul did a good job.
He was cool I fucked with him
Don't get sick
Answer questions in different ways
I believe the TA can add reminders in the chat of upcoming events and due dates for assignments before class ends.
N/A
N/A
Reach out
I think he is doing a great job. He should keep doing what he is doing.
Cool guy.

Comments
N/A
I can't think of anything, really. Paul did a good job with the tech and offering advice in the chat.
exam review
Nothing
talk slower
Nothing really, he was amazing in every way.
N/A
Nothing
N/A
Nothing he was awesome.
Nothing really I thought he did an amazing job.
He was very helpful!
I think Paul did a perfect job helping the students learn the course.
N/A
Helped understand syllabus and grasing
I would say reaching out to students, but he's great. There are over 700 students but he still answered questions and helped everyone.
Nothing!
paul was great! if he could clone himself a couple of times and be available 24/7 would be great (obviously this is not possible, but it just proves that he was really awesome as a TA)
One thing Paul could do better for the future would be to give more of his insights during the lecture as he has good takes, its just that he doesn't have the options to say them.
The only thing I would suggest is to be more organized on exam days.
Not much, he is really great and did good in engaging students to learn.
Paul literally can't do better. He is the best.
N/A
n/a
I think just communicating the weekly course plan so students would know what units were being covered each day and to better prepare for class. I often would reach a chapter and take notes only for a different chapter to be covered in class.
N/A
N/A
Nothing could be done differently Paul was amazing
I thought over all my TA did a great job of explaining topics and answer questions however sometimes the chat got too distracting although the topics where still about economics broadly it still made it hard for me to pay attention to the video live stream.
N/A
N/A
n/a
I feel like he could add some input in the live studio. He was overall a really good TA!
The TA could host exam review times outside of class or extra tutoring.
not sure
I wouldn't say Paul needs to do anything, he was a great TA
he did everything great
Did a great job
N/A
I think Paul does a good job in managing the online chat and the in person aspects of explaining things.
I'm glad that you pasted the TPS link in canvas as an announcement and in the chat, but perhaps there could be a tab at the top of our class that linked us to our TPS assignment? For more context on what I mean, I am in PSY301 online, and for their start and end of class assignments, there is a tab at the top of the screen (I believe it's the same platform that we used in ECO304K for our classes) that linked us to assignments.

Comments
SI session
N/A