

## Complete Student Comments from Courses Taught as TA

Below are all student evaluation comments that I have received in courses for which I have served as a teaching assistant. The comments are edited only for spelling. (Emphasis added.) All of the courses listed below were taught at UCLA unless otherwise noted. - Jonathan Gingerich

### **Biotechnology and Society, interdisciplinary general education course, Winter 2017**

- Jonathan did a great job of leading section each week. He was always prepared for what we would be doing in section that day and incorporated the materials from readings and lectures into section. He seemed passionate about material and cared a lot about students, how they were doing, and making sure they received any additional help if needed.
- Jonathan was incredibly patient with our section during discussions, seeking out commentary from different students and really making a concerted effort to involve everyone. He learned everyone's names by heart early on, which made a big difference. The class could be very dull and the discussions could feel like forever, but he did a good job in explaining all the material.
- NEW
- **Jonathan always had time to answer questions and look over drafts of my essay. He was always available and easy to approach. He also had very helpful exercises for us to complete in order to help strengthen our essays. As for the material covered in discussion, Jonathan had a thorough knowledge of all the material and expanded well during discussions. His analysis of the texts and discussions that ensued were very helpful to my understanding of the course.**
- Doesn't shy away from questions or certain topics, engages students in an open and engaging discussion environment.
- He is always available for outside help
- He was very helpful and made sure that we all understood the readings that were given that week. He was fair and always wanted to hear our opinions.
- I really appreciate how the discussion is very structured and how you know what to expect every week. One suggestion that I would make would be to guide the discussion more, especially when there is silence for a minute or two. Perhaps if no one in the class is responding you could give your own opinion on a certain discussion topic which will allow the students in the room to bounce off their ideas as well.
- Jonathan is a great TA -- my favorite so far! He's very approachable, understanding, helpful, and knowledgeable on the information. In general, I do feel that the discussion section for this course is an unnecessarily long length -- some of our discussions dragged on way too long, though this is not his fault. However, sometimes students would go off on tangents about subjects and this would lose the attention of the whole class -- it would be nice if Johnathan could try to end these tangents before they got too off topic.
- **Jonathan is a very patient and composed person. He conducted sections by taking the input of the students and relating them to the main point of the discussion. There are some moments where questions were awkwardly worded, but then quickly clarified. There are no real weaknesses that I saw in taking the course. Having section with him was a joy.**

- **Jonathan did a great job of leading section each week. He was always prepared for what we would be doing in section that day and incorporated the materials from readings and lectures into section. He seemed passionate about material and cared a lot about students, how they were doing, and making sure they received any additional help if needed.**
- Jonathan is kind really cares about his students and tries to be available whenever students need help. He sometimes struggles a bit with the biological components of our class. Conversations in class could have been more engaging and he could have facilitated relationships between students more. The use of slides could have been helpful.
- **Jonathan was incredibly patient with our section during discussions, seeking out commentary from different students and really making a concerted effort to involve everyone. He learned everyone's names by heart early on, which made a big difference. The class could be very dull and the discussions could feel like forever, but he did a good job in explaining all the material**
- Needed more background on the scientific/technological aspects so as to better be able to answer student questions. High level of interest in his job, always made students feel welcome in asking for help or offering opinions in discussions. Could have had more structured questions prepared to eliminate gaps in discussion and dead time during section.
- Strengths - patience, understanding of our progress in lecture, has a very good grasp on all the broad issues we discuss in section
- TA makes lots of sense and is good at engaging students and keeping discussions going. Maybe in future TA could make class a little more interesting, however this is more the fault of the class than the TA.
- Very good teaching assistant. Cares about his students.
- Great! always has office hours and is welcoming. He is knowledgeable on the course material and provides resources that are linked to the class material.
- He was always very prepared with all the material and prompted interesting discussions. Sometimes His questions could be kind of unclear but he usually clarified them pretty well.
- Jonathan did a great job of interacting with everyone in the class and helping us understand the material from lecture.
- Ta did a great job of challenging students to create connections and expand their learning of the material. Very knowledgeable on the course and a great TA

### **Biotechnology and Society, interdisciplinary general education course, Fall 2016**

- Mr. Gingerich was great at assessing our different questions and concerns. He never came off as condescending and was always fully engaged with the discussion class. As a student, I always felt that he was there to help. There were no weaknesses that stood out particularly for Mr. Gingerich.
- Although he is not extremely adept at science, he makes up for it with hard work and preparation. He studied the material enough to understand the concepts and explain them clearly to us. Very happy overall.
- NEW
- **Jonathan's strengths were his passion and energy for wanting to help students learn and understand the material. He was always vocal about making sure students felt welcome to come to him to discuss or talk about anything related to the course.**

- Jonathan genuinely is invested in the success of his students and seems to enjoy teaching. His enthusiasm helps make section run more smoothly and ensures that the discussions are interesting, never pause for too long, and are relevant to items discussed either in lecture or in assigned readings. However, he seems not to answer the biology-related questions in section very confidently and often will not directly answer them at all - if his biological background were stronger he might be more helpful to students struggling with the scientific aspect of the course. In addition, his feedback on writing assignments in particular can be vague and makes grades seem more arbitrary than they likely are, so more concrete criticism or feedback would be much appreciated to help students grow as writers and improve communication.
- Jonathan spent too much time assigning us busy work and discussing some issues in section that were irrelevant to the material needed for the class.
- Jonathan was responsive and available to help. The section was interesting and it was clear that Jonathan was knowledgeable and interested in the subject. There was a lot of reading, but it was mostly manageable. One thing that could have been improved on was integrating the readings into the discussion. Some of the readings weren't really discussed in any significant way in either lecture or discussion, leaving students unsure of what readings were actually important.
- Jonathan was very approachable and truly cared about the students. He was helpful and encouraged students to come to office hours. He offered a slightly different perspective with his background in philosophy which is very interesting.
- **Jonathan was very easy-going and welcoming. He was very helpful, understanding, organized, and respectful to everyone's points of view. I would definitely recommend him to others, and hope to take more of his sections in the future.**
- Strengths: Very approachable and friendly, good at leading discussions, good listener.  
Weaknesses: Could be more organized on the board.
- The strength is that he is understanding and always here to help. He makes the class comprehensive for us. His weaknesses is that he is a bit unclear on specifics at times, but that's because he's chill.
- Very good at getting class involved... at times seemed indifferent which is understandable due to sheer number of students he/she has to handle... Wasn't always clear on writing assignments but answered issues nonetheless... Well spoken, however not always engaging
- Weakness: focused more on society aspect than biology instead of equally Strength: communicates well and offers outside help
- **Although he is not extremely adept at science, he makes up for it with hard work and preparation. He studied the material enough to understand the concepts and explain them clearly to us. Very happy overall.**
- He might not know small details relating to biology but besides that he was a great TA! He cares about our thoughts and whether or not we understand something and accordingly he'll try to make to time to address any questions.
- He was really engaged with his students, and was approachable. I wish I could take his class next quarter!!!
- He was very caring and thoughtful, always ready to help students who needed it.
- His discussions are always insightful. He was also willing to read my entire paper and give me feedback before I turned in the final draft.

- **Mr. Gingerich was great at assessing our different questions and concerns. He never came off as condescending and was always fully engaged with the discussion class. As a student, I always felt that he was there to help. There were no weaknesses that stood out particularly for Mr. Gingerich.**
- Jonathan creates an environment that is great for learning and discussion.
- Jonathan did a great job in having each section prepared and organized so that we made good use of our time and were able to expand our knowledge on the course material.
- Jonathan is great and I feel like I can always come to him for help or with questions. Jonathan was very helpful when answering questions and addressing concerns.
- My TA was great at organizing a plan of things to do during every class meeting. He explained complicated assigned readings really well. He knew the material.
- Strength: session is well-organized.  
Weaknesses: provided not much help on writing skills.
- TA does a good job of explaining the social side of biology ideas and concepts. Helpful and approachable
- This TA is awesome.
- Very knowledgeable and inspiring in terms of considerations of social and political materials. Kind and always willing to help.

#### **Topics in Political Philosophy: Patriarchy, upper division course, Spring 2016**

- Jonathan was very engaging and it was helpful that he always come to class discussion with material he prepared himself.

#### **Intro to Ethical Theory, Writing Intensive, lower division course, Winter 2016**

- **Great T.A. Sorry if we were a bit unenthusiastic at times! It was a 9 am after all! Thanks for sharing so much concern in our learning of the material. (smiley face)**
- Strengths: -comfortable discussion environment –felt good about asking for help –quick response time –accommodating Weakness: -nothing major at all. Great Job!
- Jonathan is very passionate about what he teaches. He is very unorganized, as well.
- **Strengths: -complete masterful knowledge of material –Effective at stimulating conversation –open to aid understanding of concepts Weakness:-none**
- Jonathan is incredibly knowledgeable and articulate. He is able to answer even the most random philosophical questions. Great TA
- Lecture was long (50 min would suffice).
- **Strengths –Jonathan is fairly clear, especially considering the subject matter at hand –Jonathan offers good comments and guidance for papers. Weakness –Time management was an issue. We often spent too much time on a topic and have insufficient time to finish the material.**
- He is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable, but during appointments on papers he should give more specific pointers.
- **You were very easy to talk to, and I never felt shut down when I went to you for help (i.e. w/ critiques on my paper).**

#### **Philosophy in Literature, lower division course, Fall 2015**

- **Jonathan was an exceptional TA. I looked forward to every section and I know I would not have gotten as much out of this course if not for him. Jonathan is a great moderator and an exceptionally organized. Yay Jonathan!**
- Jonathan was not really knowledgeable and familiar with the course material, but he always very willing and eager to answer questions and entertain wild theories. Discussion sections were always very well prepared and although only a few students would participate, he would always keep discussion alive, usually with insightful questions. Also, I had a great discussing general philosophy with him during his office hours. Our conversations were always entertaining and enlightening.
- I really enjoyed our discussions!
- Strengths: knew the material. Weakness: bad at initiating and encouraging conversations.
- Strengths: Jonathan would contribute a lot of new ideas that would expand on Professor Morris' lectures. Weaknesses: Discussion died down quickly sometimes and sometimes we would discuss one thing more than another.
- Strengths: Grading fair discussion.
- TA was very knowledgeable on all of the material. There wasn't a thing he couldn't elaborate on or explain.
- **Very knowledgeable about material, accepted interpretations about material and expanded upon them. Willing listener, enjoyed teaching, created a community feeling, not teacher and students.**
- **Very open to new ideas/thoughts, let people talk and add ideas, didn't just lecture on single correct interpretation.**
- Great at making students feel welcome. Expanded knowledge from lecture very nice
- TA is very helpful and friendly. He did a good job!
- Strengths: ability to make students think on a deeper level.
- Strength: interesting, (illegible). Great stuff, great material. Weakness: can be dense.
- **Jonathan was very familiar both with lecture and reading material. He was open minded and receptive to students thoughts and ideas.**
- Strengths: genuinely cares, sweet, tries hard. Weakness: awkward.
- TA good at letting students come to their own conclusions about the works we read. Really her fueled our discussions.
- **Jonathan comes to discussion prepared with a worksheet that guides our thinking for the day. He encourages us to attend office hours and makes time to meet individually.**
- Great choice of literature to connect with material of course. Professor was great and made class interesting. TA was helpful, knowledgeable, caring. Though, the class could be strengthened w/ more assignments due or essays.
- The real strengths about this course is that there are little students, so the TA could communicate thoroughly with each one of us. Weakness is that when a question is asked, he tends to have us answer it first instead of hearing from him.
- **Jonathan is fantastic! He forces us to work through issues by the works rather than just answering them for us. He really understands the field and he is always available for extra help.**
- He really cared about his students and was very approachable. Would love to have him as a T.A. again!

- Strengths-had a good understanding, open for various interpretation. Weakness-sometimes lost control of time for discussing concepts.
- The strength of my T.A. are that he is very knowledgeable when it comes to the material covered in lecture. He is open to ideas and encourages students to engage in discussions.
- Jonathan is always prepared with the material from the lecture and promotes conversation and understanding regarding the topics there may be confusion.
- Strengths: he was a great guide during discussions and allowed us to make our own assertions.
- He is very open to helping students and responds very quickly to emails.
- Jonathan was very helpful in providing further explanation of lecture materials but sometimes was not clear enough/didn't provide clear answers but overall great class that really challenged and expanded my thoughts on literature.
- Because the lecture dragged the same ideas throughout the whole quarter, discussion would have been helpful in pinpoints/explaining more/different topics.
- Great TA I thought section really helped expand on topics that Prof. Morris brought up in discussion and answered any questions we may have had.
- Open, willing, friendly
- The TA was very knowledgeable on the subject however section sizes are too large to be able to have intimate discussions.
- **Strengths-good communication via email, encourages participation from each student, comes prepared with outlines and questions for each section, knowledgeable of the material.**
- Strengths: very knowledgeable about the subject.
- Strengths: good facilitator of discussion. Weakness-could do better job of involving students in discussion.
- The lectures are very thought provoking and the material better helped me understand why people do things. The lectures are great even when the mic doesn't work. The TA really wants to see what students have to say and sometimes gives feedback but he is good at explaining concepts.
- Jonathan is very knowledgeable about the philosophy topics. He facilitates discussions well and allows students good opportunities to speak. His weakness is failing to address all of the covered topics and he could answer students questions instead of relying on others to answer.

### **Intro to Political Philosophy, lower division course, Spring 2015**

- **Jonathan is very flexible with office hours, expands in great detail about ideas discussed in lecture, and very timely in answering emails.**
- The teaching assistant did a good job expanding on topics discussed during class.
- **Jonathan did a great job of integrating the discussion section with the course lectures. He was very knowledgeable of the material. It was great.**
- Jonathan is very knowledgeable and approachable. He helped me understand abstract philosophical concepts. He was very organized and I appreciate that he didn't make us turn in our assignments hard copy and only online. It's less of a burden on students to afford printing.
- **One of the best TA's I've ever had!**

- Great handouts and very helpful with the homework.
- Very knowledgeable and helpful.
- The discussion sections helped a lot in understanding the material. Strength: the weekly assignment? Papers with quotes.
- Strengths: catered to student needs and very organized.
- **Jonathan is a great TA, very easy to talk to. Gave us many opportunities to go speak to him (Skype, cell, office hours). Knowledgeable in the topics and one of the best TAs I've had.**
- The TA was very nice but class discussion felt dominated by particular people, alienating other students.
- As a participant in the class, I felt that Jonathan helped me expand my understanding of the material but I didn't feel quite compensated for going. Often I was one of 3 students in section and it didn't appear to affect my grade or participation by being there. If I hadn't been self motivated to attend, there would have been little incentive to do so. I don't think that benefits a philosophy discussion.
- Jonathan has been a great TA. He is clearly knowledgeable about the topic and is easy to talk to in discussion. The grading of the assignments might be too harsh for a GE.

#### **History of Ethics, Modern: Kant's Ethics, upper division course, Winter 2015**

- **Jonathan is knowledgeable and passionate about the material and is also understanding and cares about his students. He is very thoughtful with his words when discussing the material. His handouts and group work were helpful and his break-down of specific passages and paper prompts was also very helpful. It is compelling when Jonathan uses humorous examples to expand on the material. Jonathan is a genuine and kind TA.**
- Discussions should probably be a little more fast paced to cover more of the material, as fifty minutes is not usually enough.
- More lecturing.
- He is excellent! Very knowledgeable, very approachable, and had great handout! He was very helpful. Thanks a lot!
- **Jonathan was always very helpful, and he definitely made this challenging material understood. Thanks!**
- Jonathan is always very helpful and keeps us engaged. I like that he's always prepared and gives out handouts.
- **Thank you for all the help you have provided. Coming to section was definitely helpful in understanding the material. Group discussion helps build a relationship with peers and it encourage us to speak to each other outside of class.**
- Well prepared handout. However, too much discussion driven section sometimes hard to get valuable information but only scattered information. I hope to hear more about TA than other student that we as jump into discussion. In short, start with T.A. discussion than student or say their position.
- Keep doing what you're doing.
- I feel like time wasn't enough to have elaborate discussion. Also a more direct approach to answering the questions would have been more helpful and then break off into groups.

- I benefited the most from group discussions when Gingerich was part of the group guiding us toward the right direction. His participation was minimal, but key.

### **Topics in Ethical Theory: Friendship, upper division course, Fall 2014**

- GREAT JOB!
- Jonathan is often friendly and helpful toward the students.
- Good man, genuine!, interested in students
- Perfect classroom
- Jonathan definitely knew his stuff; slow grading; could be more effective clarifying course ideas. Not sure how but something's missing
- **Jonathan did a very nice job at preparing his discussion sections well. His care for being an exceptional TA was evident in the way he conducted his section. Handouts were helpful. Could not ask for a better TA for this course.**
- I really enjoyed class discussions and found it helpful with understanding the theories of love and friendship.
- **He was very concerned about the students and always came to discussion section prepared/with supplementing materials.**
- Jonathan was very knowledgeable about course material and was approachable and friendly. The only constructive criticism I have is responding to emails quicker. Thanks for a fun/ intellectually stimulating quarter!
- **No weaknesses. Jonathan Gingerich is a first-rate TA; excellent at elucidating the material covered in lecture. Did a great job overall.**
- Strengths: Mr. Gingerich has been one of the better TA's that I've encountered while at UCLA. He's ethical—he clearly does not participate in harmful agendas as is evident in his ability to grade blindly and with an objective perspective. Weaknesses: One part that I found lacking in Jonathan's performance is what the expectations were in regards to our short writing assignments. I got both an A + B grades for the same quality of work.
- Strengths: Led and motivated insightful discussions of course material; provided helpful handouts; used preferred names and pronouns
- Great job Jonathan. But, I would have liked if you had made it more clear when we would get our graded assignments back.
- Keep doin' what your doing and you can become a master
- **You were very thorough and to the point in discussion. I learned a lot coming to section more than most other sections I've had. Thanks for being curt, very to the point, and clear about all the many topics. Your mastery of the course material was very apparent.**
- Cared about student learning; grading expectations were a little unclear.
- Jonathan is kind and passionate about his work.
- Jonathan's the best.
- Class was well-structured; went over relevant material. Teacher was well-informed. Maybe have more group discussions.
- **Jonathan was really good about explaining the material on the fly, when people had questions beyond the scope of the material or course he was good at providing well thought out answers.**

### **Moral Responsibility and Free Will, upper division course, Spring 2013**

- **Excellent discussion sections. You are the best TA I've had at UCLA. Your sections provide a place for discussion of the material, and clarification and help with it when needed. You are very helpful and seem to genuinely care about your students. your availability to help and meet students is excellent too. Your presentation in section (and help in office hours) is clear, helpful, and illuminating. Thanks, it was a pleasure having you as a TA this quarter.**
- He's great! Very knowledgeable and approachable
- Good TA. Genuinely about students learning. Available more than other TAs.
- The handouts are very valuable and helpful study materials and I appreciate them.
- I think you could improve by initiating the class more during discussions, just asking the class what they would like to look at often leaves silence in the room. I feel you know your stuff, and enjoyed the class and discussions.
- **A strong strength would be the TA interest in the subject. Very open to discussion and organized. No major weaknesses. Appreciate and enjoyed discussion.**
- Jonathan was very knowledgeable on the subject and was able to expand on certain areas of the course that seemed confusing at first. Great TA overall.
- **TA was very helpful; lots of office hours, reading questions to focus on, plus available. via email. Felt like sections + handouts clarified a lot what was learned in lectures and readings. Great TA in general.**
- Fantastic TA. Very thoughtful and clear, explained things very well.
- **I couldn't think of any weaknesses, but the TA appears to have an amazing grasp on the material.**

### **Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, upper division course, Winter 2013**

- Peter of Spain is a difficult subject to engage in a discussion. I would have preferred to focus on Descartes and other philosophers like Anselm or Aquinas.
- Harder materials should have outlines given.
- Great TA. Great class. Well worth my time and effort.
- Jonathan was so helpful and opened to everyone. I found him super amazing!
- Very knowledgeable and welcoming. Great TA.
- Everything went well and correlated with the class.
- Weaknesses: Coherence. Organization.
- Very abstract material.
- **His strengths: very knowledgeable, easy to approach, answers questions. TO be honest he has no weaknesses. He's probably one of the best TA's I've had.**
- Interesting presentation of ideas. Great ability to explain difficult areas of teachings. Not enough time to discuss more.
- The material for 100B is so dry, but I think Jonathan did a good job in trying to help students understand the course better. The section was good for such a boring topic (Peter of Spain especially). He really cares for student grades, rather than just trying to fail students (Lopez). I like the handouts too. They helped me out.
- **Jonathan is extremely knowledgeable of all course topics, and even related these topics to outside ideas as well to make them comprehensible. There is honestly**

**nothing bad I can say about Jonathan. My only problem is that the discussion went too fast to fully dive in to any one topic. I definitely hope to have Jonathan as a TA again in 100C or any course.**

- Pretty good at handling awkward quiet class moments. Very friendly and approachable. Seems to be very understanding of students. Could improve his discussion flows (ex. Encourage students to be more involved).
- Great TA. Very smart. Nice guy and helpful. Only complaint was students didn't interact that much. But not his fault.
- Jonathan was very willing to help and provided time and effort for students. He's knowledgeable and explains well at most times.
- Awesome TA. Very thoughtful and knowledgeable and accessible.
- I was very impressed to find someone both extremely knowledgeable and motivated; the couple of which made this class extremely entertaining and educational. The soon to be professor Gingerich is an asset to UCLA and a great asset to philosophy.
- **Jonathan is a great resource. He really cares about his students, and actually takes interest in us. He is more than willing to meet/open more office hours. And is willing to talk about subjects outside of class material Including law school and other areas of philosophy. Overall one of the Best, and most caring TA I have had at UCLA.**
- A Great TA! Always handed out papers in discussion that go along with lectures & readings. Lectures, board presentations, and review of material was always concise and clear. Discussion section was fun and engaging, not a dry lecture. But it had a good flow every time.
- Great TA, very knowledgeable, helpful, +10/10.
- I believe that this section was very strong I felt very comfortable w/ the material discussed in section. I really appreciated the pre-made handouts. By far the best section I have taken at UCLA.
- I thought Jonathan was very good at expanding on course material and making more difficult concepts accessible.
- Thank you!
- Jonathan is often concerned about the learning of his students and is always willing to help.
- **As a non-philosophy major, I felt the T.A. did an excellent job of presenting difficult course material in an easy to understand fashion.**
- Depth of knowledge about subject material very high. Very kind, patient, clear in his sections. Well prepared.

### **Rationality and Action, upper division course, Fall 2013**

- **The assistant was willing to spend a lot of time helping students prepare for exams outside of office hours even just a few hours before the exam. The assistant could have been more knowledgeable about some of the material.**
- Very helpful! Thank you!
- Strengths: Fair and accurate grading—helps the student realize what they do or don't know. Great outlines—helpful.  
Weakness: Failed to make proper time for the student. Unable to answer critical questions for tests/papers during office hours.

- Jonathan was very competent. The course material was especially technical (and thus especially difficult), and at times he (understandably) had difficulty clearly answering student questions.
- Strength was his knowledge of the material. Weaknesses was the presentation at times it was hard to concentrate.
- Course material was difficult but Jonathan did a great job handling the material and giving it to us in an understandable manner.
- Strengths: knowledge of material and willingness to help. Very smart and great personality. Weakness of course: Prof. should present more material on powerpoint notes, upload notes sooner, and only tests what's on study guide.
- I thought this was a hard course to T.A. for so above all I was grateful that John knew what he was talking about, was never impatient with anyone, and had great examples for us to practice on. I wish we had been able to cover more in sections, but the pace wasn't unreasonable under the time constraint. And I understand that he wanted to make sure everyone understood a concept before moving on. Sometimes a section wasn't particularly engaging or dynamic, but again, I think this was due partially to the nature of the subject. Overall, sections helped a lot in learning the material in the course, which is the main thing to consider (I think) when evaluating a T.A.

### **Modern Philosophy, 1650-1800, upper division course, Spring 2013**

- **Jonathan has the rare ability to make just about everyone feel welcome in engaging an otherwise arcane and difficult subject. His friendly demeanor and keen philosophical sense lend themselves well to establishing a healthy environment for discussion. Outside of class, he was more than willing to help address any outstanding questions one might have; too often it is easy to feel intimidated about talking to one's TA. Jonathan is a rare treat among TA's.**
- The strength would be the TA's ability to answer questions, even ones that may not seem apparent to begin with. There were times when I had questions and they did not seem apparent and Jonathan was able to answer them. There are no weaknesses I can identify.
- **Jonathan is a very approachable TA. I really appreciate his concern for student learning and his making himself available for discussion. I also think he is very good at clarifying complex ideas and motivating discussion around very hard to understand concepts.**
- Incredibly helpful, caring, accessible. Will be an amazing professor, and is academic. Does not pass up your ideas, but attempts to entertain them.
- **Jonathan is the most organized T.A. I have had. He is always open to discussion, be it through phone, internet, and in person. He is willing to give constructive criticism which leads to better understanding of the material. Great T.A.**
- Jonathan did a great job presenting the very difficult subject material we were given.
- I thought you were really nice and cared a lot about whether we felt comfortable with the material. You put a lot of comments on the papers too, which was helpful. You should be more confident.
- **Jonathan is an amazing TA with great knowledge. He cares very very much for his students. He presented various alternative office hours for those of us who were unable to make it to his regularly scheduled office hours. Overall a great TA.**

- Jonathan is an excellent speaker and facilitator in class discussion. Thank you! =)
- Good guy!
- He's very helpful and knowledgeable of the material.
- Jonathan succeeds as a very powerful TA by making himself readily available multiple mediums (e-mail, Skype, Lu Valle, class/OH), thus readying himself for the concerns of his students. He is extremely knowledgeable & helpful, and it is only to the unfortunate disadvantage of bad luck that he has had to be a TA under this particular rendition of the 100C class. Based on his cooperative performance in facing the terrible nature of this course, I comment him for a job-well-done.
- **Jonathan was one of my best TAs. He made really useful handouts that pointed you towards the important sections of text w/o bluntly giving it away. It was good to have some help in a philosophy class, yet I always felt like I figured it out.**

### Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy, upper division course, Winter 2013

- **The best part of Gingerich's section and about Gingerich himself (as a TA) is the willingness to communicate knowledge or topics of interest within the scope of the class. Having a class as unstructured (lots of info, very little assignment) as this makes having such a TA essential, both to keeping up with the material and with being able to ask about what is curious to you. This is the best way to learn alongside a lecture presentation in my opinion; Kudos!**
- Jonathan is a very approachable/knowledgeable guy. Sometimes confuses more than clarifies when explaining but I would take another course with him.
- **This course was very difficult and I thought Jonathan did a really good job expanding on and working out the ideas presented. He was very knowledgeable about the material and willing to work through problems and had a genuine interest in working out problems. I really enjoyed having him as a TA.**
- I really liked that you were very open to meeting outside of class and even very concerned with answering questions. The handouts were great and the organization was on point. I really enjoyed being in section with you.
- A very valuable course, and a thoughtful TA.
- Jonathan was a great TA with genuine concern for his students. He was very knowledgeable and interesting and would make a great professor in the future. Very nice and sympathetic to student concerns.
- Great TA overall, displayed great familiarity with the subject. Was able to provide informative and stimulating discussions. Always made time to see students and was very helpful when answering questions. Overall did a fantastic job, despite only having a few students show up to his early section. Honestly he couldn't have done a better job.
- **This was one of the better philosophy classes I've taken at UCLA, even though the material was fairly obscure. Jonathan presented handouts that greatly enhanced my understanding while explicitly breaking them down. He was extremely helpful in his office hours and made himself very available for anyone to reach him outside of class. As TAs go, A+.**
- Jonathan is a super chill guy. He knows the material, and is very easy to approach and talk to. Great TA and I highly recommend him.
- Interesting discussions, but the discussions often seemed to be well behind the lecture.

- **Overall Jonathan was a great teacher's assistant. He was very knowledgeable on the subject, he had innovative ways to simplify the philosophical concepts, and lastly he was accessible to answer any questions I may have had. Jonathan is a great asset to the philosophy department at UCLA.**

### **Intro to Political Philosophy, lower division, Fall 2012**

- **He made this class do-able. He made the readings and lectures learnable and integrates humor in the class.**
- Very knowledgeable and easy to talk to.
- Always available and willing to help. He even let me call his cell phone to discuss assignments.
- **He knows the material extremely well and tries to engage us; his passion is endearing and inspiring. He is excellent.**
- He is excellent at extending help, explaining and reviewing.
- Accessible, knowledgeable, engaging, excellent detail on grading.
- He provided very helpful notes and is good at explaining ideas. He was very available and OH, optional discussions were helpful.
- Good TA, kind of boring and not all that helpful during discussion but helpful during OH.
- Very helpful, made himself very available and approachable.
- Extremely knowledgeable on material and was able to effectively explain the material.
- Would be better if you chose the topics for discussion before asking people for their opinions... overall section was fun.
- Section was disorganized- jumped around a lot. Concerned and helpful but for writing workshops, seemed to focus on only 1 argument. Should group together people who chose the same essay questions.
- Knowledgeable, open to discussing concepts and well organized but he should still be open to other's ideas and considering discussing them, participation should be graded so that people start contributing to the discussions.
- Extremely knowledgeable, well prepared, organized but can improve communication, creating a comfortable environment and require more participation.
- **Very good at making esoteric ideas tangible- most valuable skill for a TA.**
- Notes are very helpful, you did a good job.
- Very knowledgeable in course material.
- Good concern and very knowledgeable- could have more discussion- overall, great. Thanks
- **Provides many resources and notes for the class- holds many office hours and a joy to talk to.**

### **Justice, lower division general education course, Harvard University, Fall 2008**

- I felt that my section leader could not teach well. He often failed to answer questions posed by various classmates in section, and he could not clarify difficult areas in the subject matter.
- **He's a really nice guy who knows the Justice materials very well. Sometimes his language can get very technical and therefore confusing for the rest of us (but then again he's a lawyer. What can you do?). He does explain his confusing comments most of the time, though. I really enjoyed his section, and think he's an awesome TF. :)**

- Jonathan is a nice guy, and he know's his material. However, he isn't very enthusiastic about the course, and his comments on our paper and short papers haven't been very helpful. He is accessible after class though.
- Jonathan did a good job as a TF in that he facilitates discussion and illuminated many aspects of the course that had been formerly unclear. However, at times the discussions were too mired in unnecessary details.
- I felt discussions often devolved into a minor point of debate that failed to illuminate the broader theory we were studying at the time. His lecture on Kant, however, was quite insightful.
- would be helpful if he gave more concrete feedback on assignments, and ways in which to improve
- Jonathan was great but he needs to speak up! (sorry Jonathan but sometimes I can't hear you when you speak)
- Dull, boring, awkward. He complicated the material rather than simplifying it. He allowed dumb tangents to go on too long. He didn't always make sure we understood what each author's point was
- He did a good job generating discussions but could have done more fundamental explaining of concepts.
- Should push to be more clear on his specific expectations for essays.
- **Jonathan was effective and engaging. He facilitated discussion well, and used time wisely, most of the time, to help us understand more difficult concepts.**
- Not very helpful
- Like I've said, Jonathan is the worst TF I've had at Harvard. Gives confusing explanations on the subject matter, kills any interesting discussions we get into in section, and provides no feedback despite grading harshly. I was lucky enough to miss section one week and attended Julia Hildereth's one, which was so much better and made me realize just how terrible Jonathan is at this.
- Jonathan could have improved by helping summarize relevant points more often. Too many times, I felt like everyone in the section just threw around ideas and no one knew what was actually correct.
- made sections boring and did not facilitate discussion or create enthusiasm for the subject matter
- **Jonathan was very accessible and approachable. The feedback he gave was exceptional, and the help he provided when I went to him was great. Thanks, Jonathan!**