

## Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

Taylor N. Carlson

This document includes a summary of my teaching evaluations as an instructor of record and section-leading teaching assistant. Official Instructor of Record summary evaluations are available at: <https://cape.ucsd.edu/responses/Results.aspx> if you search Carlson, Taylor Nicole. I am happy to provide the complete official evaluations upon request.

### Instructor of Record

Scores reflect the average of student responses on a five-point scale ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. NA or missing responses are excluded.

	Political Psychology	Voting, Campaigning, and Elections
The course material is intellectually stimulating	4.6	4.5
Exams are representative of the course material	4.9	4.5
Instructor displays a proficient command of the material	4.6	5
Instructor is well prepared for class	4.9	5
Instructor's speech is clear and audible	4.9	5
Instructor explains course material well	4.8	5
Lectures hold your attention	4.6	4.5
Instructor shows concern for student learning	5	5
Instructor promotes appropriate questions/discussion	4.9	5
Instructor is accessible outside of class	4.9	5
The instructor practiced effective teaching strategies that acknowledged and valued differences among students, including differences of race and gender identity	4.7	4.5
Would you recommend this course overall? [Yes]	100%	100%
Would you recommend this instructor overall? [Yes]	100%	100%
N submitted evaluations	8	4
N enrolled	33	11

#### *Select Student Comments on Courses and Assignments*

- One of the top interesting courses I have taken at UCSD
- Although it is outside of my major, I did in fact find this course extremely interesting
- So applicable no matter your major
- Everything professor Carlson expects of you is included in her syllabus and assignment prompts
- The assignments were definitely helpful. They allow for one to understand the readings better and to connect course material to current events

- I LOVED how she gave us the option if we wanted our midterm or final to be a higher percentage towards our grade
- Taylor chose readings that are so unique that I can actually remember all of them and can recognize them! Overall the readings are so helpful and I don't think I'll forget them.
- The papers we wrote in class taught me most importantly how to write clearly and precisely – I'm so grateful for that!

### ***Select Student Comments on Teaching Performance***

- Very helpful and cares about her students. Always available and takes time out of the day to help
- I know she's "only" a PhD candidate but she's one of the best professors I've ever had, including those who have been lecturing longer than she's been alive
- Commands respect. One of the best overall professors I've had at this school
- Absolutely loved her! She was very passionate about what she thought, she provided a very safe learning environment, and showed care for the well of her students
- She was always very welcoming of our opinions, even when they were not the same as her own. She asked questions that allowed for discussion and collaborative learning.
- I love that she understood that some of us were more shy and introvert towards raising our hand and speaking out loud about class so she had the concept of talking with the peers around us about current discussions that she was lecturing on. Really appreciate that!
- Goes out of her way to show she cares, gives solid feedback on the assignments and does it in a timely manner. She's super open to student opinion but isn't a pushover. Does a good job hiding her political preferences from students which I think is important for this type of course.
- Promotes discussion, makes you formulate your own opinions, very accessible outside of class, and she tries to teach you skills you will actually use once you leave college.
- Taylor is one of the best teachers I've had for Political Science. She carries this crazy passion for teaching and Political Science and together that works so so well in teaching the students material effectively...she cares for our overall well being and I think that makes our experience in the class more valuable and effective in learning the material properly...taking this class with Taylor helped me re-instill my passion for Political Science and assured to me that I was in the right major! ... I know that later down the line, I can say that Taylor contributed a lot to my knowledge of Political Science and being able to apply what I learned to my careers. Most importantly, you can see Taylor really cares about getting to know her students on a one on one level and overall wants to see us succeed and be the best at our endeavors.

## Section-Leading Teaching Assistant

Scores reflect the average of student responses on a five-point scale ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. NA or missing responses are excluded.

	<u>Introduction to American Politics</u>			<u>Political Inquiry</u>
	Winter 2017	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018
Well-organized for class	4.9	4.9	4.97	4.9
Presented course material clearly and answered questions accurately in class	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.96
Helped develop my thinking skills on the subject	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.96
Feedback on assignments, exams, and/or papers was helpful and constructive	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.9
Explanations were appropriate, being neither too complicated nor too simple	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.9
Answered questions clearly and effectively, helping students make connections among the course readings, assignments, and lectures	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9
Genuinely interested in and enthusiastic about teaching	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9
Accessible to students outside of class (office hours, email, etc.)	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9
Effectively connected the section/lab exercises with the material covered in lecture	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
I would recommend this Teaching Assistant to other students	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9
Average Overall	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9
N	28	14	33	24

### ***Select Student Comments on Teaching Performance:***

- Genuinely seemed interested in student learning and well being, positive disposition and made the classroom comfortable and conducive of discussion
- She was very organized and knew exactly how to engage the students
- Taylor was really an exemplary TA. With many TAs, it's more than clear that they aren't very interested in being a TA and are only doing it for the financial/resume building benefits. Taylor is the farthest from that. She repeatedly told the class that being a TA and getting to interact with her class is her favorite part of graduate school. It was incredibly encouraging to hear that. It was refreshing to feel like the person teaching me actually cares that I learn and understand. That made me feel much more invested in the class. After convincing myself I had failed a test, I emailed Taylor in a bit of a panic. Her response was so genuinely kind and understanding. Academia can be very harsh, and to hear someone actually care about their students feelings, and to encourage that student to take care of their own mental health was really amazing. Her sections were very well done, and helped to clarify complex concepts from class and from the readings, She delegated extra office hours near the time of midterms, and encouraged students to set up an appointment with her if they couldn't come during those

times. I know she was not required to devote so much time and energy and kindness to her students, but she chose to do so voluntarily. That's really what makes a great teacher! She asked for our feedback halfway through the quarter, which really proved how much she cared about our education. Taylor has been an incredible TA!

- Taylor's greatest strength was creating a welcoming learning environment that allowed students feel free to ask questions for clarification, responding quickly to any questions through email or in person and for showing enthusiasm to teach.
- Taylor's greatest strength was her passion. She was very enthusiastic and deeply wanted all of her students to do well in the class. She put a lot of effort into facilitating discussion, and engaging her class.
- Taylor's definitely one of the best TA's within the Political Science Dept that I had the pleasure to work with
- Taylor promotes interactive environment in our section and encourages better learning and stronger recognition of the materials we are going over... She respects our opinions and at the same time, tries to stay neutral so we can feel comfortable sharing our thoughts without feeling shut down
- Carlson does a great job of validating students ideas and this led to, in my opinion, more participation of different student in section without the pressure of being ridiculed for sharing. She is a great, if not the greatest TA I have had thus far.
- I was originally in another section and Taylor was subbing for my first TA. Considering this is my first Political Science course I was very intimidated by my lack of exposure to such material, and I was not learning much in my first section. After one section with Taylor I switched into her section and have definitely notice an improvement in my performance based off of the support she has provided.
- Taylor warmly welcomes students' attempts to discuss. She always receives talking points with a smile (and is able to connect what students say to her lessons with ease), and I have never felt nervous, unprepared, or out of the loop when speaking in section. Most importantly, she genuinely cares about her students and provides a TON of resources to help before midterm and final. Her closest comparison in terms of availability and helpfulness is that of your favorite high school teacher.