

Spring 2020 Course Report FAS-GOV 2003-Topics in Quantitative Methods 001 Soichiro Yamauchi

Project Title: 2020 Spring Harvard FAS Course Evaluation

Course Audience: 18
Responses Received: 14
Response Ratio: 78%

Report Comments

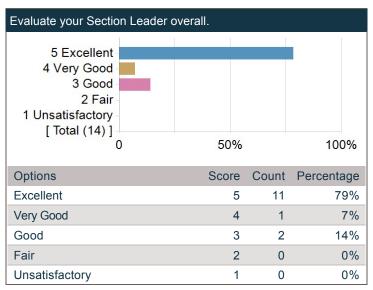
Note:

The order that the questions appear on this report is not the same as the way the questions were displayed to students. The order has been changed to make the report more readable.

Creation Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2020

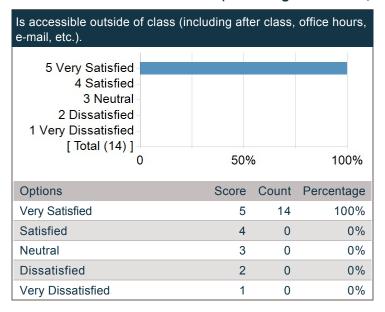
Custom Questions

Evaluate your Section Leader overall.



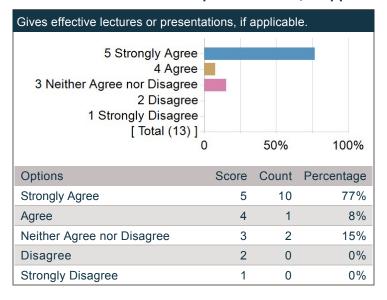
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Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.).



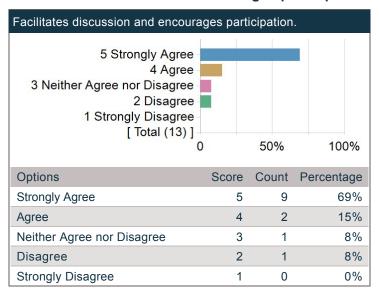
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Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable.



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Facilitates discussion and encourages participation.



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Please comment on your Section Leader's teaching.

Comments

The TA did not do much formal teaching, but rather worked with us on mini and full length problem sets. We would not have survived the course without him and I am very grateful to him. That being said, I believe he knew how much we struggled with the material and I wonder how much of that was communicated to the professors.

Absolutely brilliant teaching. Committed, approachable and friendly. Could not have completely the course without his help and advising.

SOICHIRO IS AMAZING!

Soichiro is a great teaching assistant and would be a great professor. His sections were very helpful for all of us; his response times incredible. Soichiro's sections were the best of any class I've taken at Harvard. Sometimes he re–derives some quantities from first principles (e.g. the section on EM), explaining what happens in other situations (e.g. truncated data or high–dimensional gaussian data) very clearly.

Extremely helpful and enthusiastic! Always available and very kind when giving explanations.

Soichiro's time and dedication to ensuring that every student was able to understand the material was more than commendable. He was truly a blessing for making this course work, both in person and when offering virtual help later on.

Soichiro is an effective instructor: good communication skills, knowledgeable on the course material, and super responsive to questions during and outside of section times.

Soichiro is an excellent TF. He went above and beyond in making himself available, often staying hours after official office hours or section time. He helped break down concepts, taught us basic skills we needed for derivation, and was always willing to walk us through problems we had. He did an outstanding job this semester.

Although the effort is extremely commendable, most of the extra work he ended up having by addressing questions could have been avoided by providing much better and more detailed section notes and solutions. Many times, there was a loss of time due to the setting being unclear (for instance what a particular variable was, or in which space it was defined). This sometimes made section advance really slowly and made the TF had an undue workload in office hours. I would suggest to rebalance work towards better section notes and solutions.

Soichiro was amazing! He is the best. He's very smart, and basically always has a well thought–out answer to any question posed. He works hard – he'd often stay in office hours after it was scheduled to end if we still had questions, and the same is true for sections. He is very responsive, even outside of class and office hours, via email and Piazza. He is also a fair grader, and great at giving feedback. We need more TFs like Soichiro.

Soichiro was, by far, the best part of this course. He is a kind, effective teacher. He:

- (1) offered instructional, well-prepared sections
- (2) developed helpful section assignments
- (3) was extremely supportive during sections, office hours, and available for personal meetings.
- (4) provided great grading feedback

Soichiro is incredibly dedicated to the success of his students. His willingness to make extra time and put in the hard work helping students understand the material is commendable and inspirational.

Soichiro is great in that he is willing to spend enormous amounts of time with you helping you figure out the problems. I have rarely had a TF who is as generous with his time as Soichiro is. I do think he has some problems with writing problem sets, though — they're consistently far too difficult, with no calibration throughout the course of the semester. He also assumes too much knowledge at many points. But the amount of time he spent with me and my classmates helping us through matters that must, for him, be rather mundane, was very impressive.

Soichiro's saintly patience with our pestering outside of class saved us.

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