

Department: INTL_ST International Studies
Course: 201-2-20 Global History II
Quarter: Spring 2009

CTEC Online TA Report For Toby Bolsen

Teaching Assistant Questions

Wording of Statement	Number of responses	6 (high)	5	4	3	2	1 (low)	Average
15. The TA was able to answer the students' questions adequately.	29	16	4	9	0	0	0	5.24
16. The TA was well prepared for each session.	29	20	5	3	1	0	0	5.52
17. The TA communicated ideas in a clear manner.	29	17	8	1	2	1	0	5.31
18. The TA showed strong interest in teaching the course.	29	20	2	5	0	2	0	5.31

Comments: toby was a great TA, always did all the readings, understood them well, good at leading discussions without prescribed responses. it might've been nice on the discussions before papers were due to have more of a summary given like the one for the korea/soviet union paper./Can be a little dry, and did not teach to level of student involvement while not inspiring to stay up on readings./Strict sections, but in a good way. Also seemed to do a good job of encouraging hard work, and grading papers fairly./Well organized, very understanding and tries to be as helpful as possible/The teaching assistant was excellent. He was extremely well prepared for class and could answer student questions very well. His passion for the subject inspired the students to learn./facilitated discussion well./Toby is very good. That's all that needs to be said./Toby was very devoted and thoughtful and engaged the students in discussion section. He actually memorized the names of each student by the second section (no easy task).

I would have to say there is a great discrepancy between TAs in grading policy though. Although this is not a complaint against

Toby (who was very helpful and understanding), the other TAs shortened assignments, extended deadlines, and seemingly graded on a much different scale. I know there is not much to do about this, but a lot of people were frustrated with the amount of difference in policy or grading within the same class.

That said, Toby made sure we learned the material. And now I appreciate that./Toby is a nice guy, but he expects way TOO much out of his students. Even Derlugian knows that the majority of students don't have the time to read all of the assigned readings. I would avoid getting Toby as a TA if you can. If you do have him be prepared to work extra hard and participate because he is a harsh grader./Toby was an AMAZING TA- wonderful discussion leader, very fair grader, approachable and reliable with questions, did his best to get to know each student/Toby was really nice, very laid back, but also very smart. I think everyone felt comfortable in his class. He was a very fair grader./he was a great resource and had a lot of enthusiasm for helping us/Toby, the TA, was a great asset to the course. He was very well prepared for the discussion sections and definitely facilitated the sections./The teaching assistant is extremely prepared, intelligent and helpful./Toby is great in generating discussions, and invested in stimulating interest in the topic at hand. I appreciated that he worked just as hard as we did to keep up with the reading assignments. Also, he was honest about the extent of his knowledge on a given topic, and if he didn't know something, he would always look it up later and come back to it. Sections immediately prior to the essay deadlines could be directed a little more towards the essays, though, which he didn't do for the first two assignments.