A Summary of David Ramsay's Recent TA Responsibilities

MAS.S73 – Moving Beyond the Replication Crisis (IAP '22)

Originator and creator of the class, a 3-credit hour IAP class consisting of 5, 2-hour sessions and a major project on the replication crisis. This class was geared towards a real, unmet need in the media lab to address fundamental challenges in methodology and insight from social science research, and to chart a path forward for any research that seeks to quantify human experience and behavior.

It is such an important topic that no resources until this class at MIT have addressed adequately. Other top tier research institutions are creating huge initiatives to address this topic; there are major replicability initiatives at UPenn (https://credlab.wharton.upenn.edu/), UCBerkley (https://www.bitss.org/), and Stanford (https://metrics.stanford.edu/), with many more universities signing up for similar initiatives (The Center for Open Science shows buy-in from UMichigan, UCL, USC, Oxford, and Queensland for their pre-registration efforts).

Responsibilities included:

- Created a syllabus and course summary; scaffolded course content.
- Created course marketing material and website; publicized/marketed the course.
- Registered the class and graded students.
- Handled all administrative tasks; course communication, room reservations, and zoom setup.
- Provided a hybrid classroom and recorded lectures using personal A/V equipment due to pandemic surge over IAP.
- Delivered two main 1.5 hour lectures (the first and last) as well as a final short lecture before student presentations.
- Designed the course homework.
- Oversaw student presentations; answered questions about the homework and graded.
- Led discussions in each class.
- Recruited and worked with two other graduate students to provide an additional two lectures that fit the course outline. It was their first lectures delivered as part of a for-credit MIT course.
- Archived course material for other students to access at http://replication.media.mit.edu.

MAS.S61 – AI and Mental Health (Sp '21)

Roz Picard's class; served as the primary TA alongside Yuanbo Liu.

Responsibilities included:

- Help in design and updating website, reviewing course homework, assisting with grades.
- Consulting with groups on group projects; mentoring groups through IRB process for their projects.
- In charge of all hybrid A/V setup, as the only hybrid class running at the media lab during the semester. Early every class with personal equipment to create an effective hybrid classroom environment.
- Delivered one of the thirteen main course lectures; two hours on loneliness and tech-mediated connection.

David's Instructor Rating: **7.0 / 7.0 / 7.0** (3 ratings, out of 7.0)
Avg For Other Course Instructors: 6.6 / 7.0 / 6.8

All Comments for David:

"Best professor I have had in a long time"

MAS.S76 – Adventures in Sensing (Sp '21)

Joe Paradiso's class; served as a TA alongside several other RA's in Joe's group.

Responsibilities included:

- Recruiting and organizing two visiting lecturers—Bunnie Huang and Shoshanna Zuboff.
- MCing and introducing these lectures.
- Organizing reading lists, designing an assignment, and running class discussions on relevant topics.

David's Instructor Rating: **7.0 / 7.0 / 7.0** (2 ratings, out of 7.0)
Avg For Other Course Instructors: 7.0 / 7.0 / 7.0

All comments for David: --

MAS.836 – Sensor Technologies for Interactive Environments (Sp '22)

Joe Paradiso's class; served as a TA alongside several other RA's in Joe's group. David has TAed this class four times, once as the lead TA.

- Delivering one of the thirteen main two-hour course lectures (typically on chemical/particulate sensing; tentative, but this has been true for the last two versions of the course)
- Leading recitation sections with ~1 hour lectures on basic electronics
- Hosting office hours and helping students with problem sets and lab work
- Grading problem sets
- Evaluating final projects and helping with grade assignments
- In the past, responsibilities have included redesigning the homework and labs, reorganizing course material, and delivering multiple additional recitation lectures

In progress; previous feedback as lead TA of MAS.836 (Sp '15):

David's Instructor Rating: **6.0 / 7.0 / 7.0** (5 ratings, out of 7.0)
Avg For Other Course Instructors: 6.2 / 6.65 / 6.35

All Comments for David:

"Best TA ever!"

"David organized recitations and made himself available for help. He knows the subject well and he is also very good at explaining the concepts. He has been extremely patient and helpful to answer my questions on the homework and labs."

"Helped us immensely on the labs & recitations, excellent TA"