

Term Fall 2024	Course EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	Primary Dept PLSC	Primary Division Social Sciences	Enrolled: 97 Responded: 84
Instructors Turner, Ian (P)				

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 48

Respondent	Answer
1780126	I learned about Game theory and various types of Nash Equilibria such as Pure Strategy NE, Mixed NE, Subgame Perfect NE, Bayesian NE, Bayesian Perfect NE. I gained insights on building strategy and best response analysis.
1780474	Good introduction game theory course.
1780495	Gained a foundational understanding of game theory, beginning with static games of complete information and ending with dynamic games of incomplete information, with added emphasis on its applications in elections, legislative bodies, and other real-world situations.
1781053	How to solve games, understand preferences and beliefs.
1785447	In this course, I learned how to interpret and predict the moves of players from different types of games using matrices and game trees to ultimately find Nash equilibria.
1786407	Game theory and application
1787486	I learned everything about Game Theory that I wanted from an introductory course.
1787563	I learned about the fundamentals of game theory and how they apply to political contexts.
1788221	Introductory how to do game theory and arbitrage
1790467	I learned lots - game trees, strategic problems, rational-decision making, decision trees, static games of complete/incomplete information, dynamic games of complete/incomplete information, normal form games, the prisoner's dilemma, Nash equilibrium, the war of attrition, electoral composition, median voter theory, mixed strategies, and more. I learned a ton!!
1790983	- knowledge of basics of game theory & poli sci applications - solving for diff types of nash equilibrium - use of logic, put simply
1794099	Learned so much more about GT beyond the Prisoner's Dilemma. I think this was probably one of my favorite classes taken at Yale as someone who does not particularly enjoy QR classes. Taught and organized very systematically.
1795259	Basic game theory knowledge
1795924	Knowledge of the game theory..i dont know what more to say I took for this my QR credit. I am not a game theory enthusiast, didn't even fully know what it was, but I made it
1797092	`I learned to think like a game theorist. I learned how to set up games and work through puzzles logically.
1798372	I became significantly better at game theory.
1799538	I learned a ton in this class, specifically, how to understand game environments, payoffs, probabilities, and how all these factors influence an individual's decision in a game environment. This class was broken into three sections, where in the first, we learned about the basics of nash equilibriums, matrixes, and how they can be utilized to understand a player's best response to an opponent's action or game environment. In the second sector, we learned about backward induction and signalling games, where we were able to look at full information games and the process of each player evaluating the situation and credible outputs. Third, we learned about bayesian games, which tied together most of the material throughout the semester into a cohesive package. While I learned all this interesting information, I felt that I had to learn it mostly by myself.
1800656	Learned the basics of Game Theory and the practical applications of concepts, especially regarding politics.
1800663	Basic Game Theory, Backward Induction, Problem-solving
1802536	I learned so much about how Game theory applies to Politics and various processes in games.
1803934	Learned game theory from a very basic level to a relatively advanced one for what is possible in a semester.
1806147	Learned all out the inner working of a game theorist and the challenges that are in a coming to one single medium.
1807127	I gained a great introduction to the world of Game Theory, and was able to develop many useful technical skills.
1807315	I learned the basic concepts of game theory and how they apply to modern politics.

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Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#1 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 48

Respondent	Answer
1810031	Intro game theory skills
1810060	I enjoyed applying my learning to problems and real world scenarios.
1810067	Basics of the game theory.
1810302	How to set up and solve games to determine when players will make certain actions.
1810558	I learned a lot about game theory and strategies to approach common game theory problems. I learned a lot about different types of Nash Equilibria and how to solve games where players play at different times and with different levels of information.
1811461	Introductory game theory skills. Mostly critical thinking and quantitative analysis.
1813528	Not much, its a worse taught more confusing version of Econ 159, if you want find enjoyment in memorizing notation and extremely specific methods instead of general reasoning then this is a good course for you
1813530	I learned the basics of game theory, the importance of going to office hours, and how to take notes for a political science class (which I feel requires a completely different way of note-taking than a math class or an English class a combination of both?).
1814662	I learned about game theory, mathematical strategies, and political dilemmas
1817799	I gained a basic understanding of game theory and its connection to political science.
1820530	An introduction to game theory and how it could be applied to political situations/theories (such as elections, the effects of asymmetric information, etc)
1821062	Foundations of game theory and its applications to political science and the real world, including best response analysis, pure strategy Nash equilibria, mixed strategy Nash equilibria, and perfect Bayesian equilibria

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Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#2 Your level of engagement with the course was:
Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.8 ±1.0	3.9 ±1.0	3.8 ±1.0	3.9 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
very low	1
low	4
medium	17
high	23
very high	18

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Instructors Turner, Ian (P)				

#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 48

Respondent	Answer
1780126	Strengths: It was very well taught, the exams were fair, and the class was focused on learning. I liked the structure of the course and the sequence of problem sets and exams. I loved Prof. Turner's teaching style. Weaknesses: the problem sets were very important for your grade but the office hours of the TFs were limited, which made it difficult for me to get help when needed.
1780474	I liked how the classes were recorded, which was helpful for studying and in case I couldn't make it to the lecture, but the pace of the lecture often felt a bit fast. The problem sets prepared us well for the test but I felt like beyond that, there could have been more practice problems.
1780495	Strengths: Professor Turner ROCKS! He is so evidently passionate about this material, and works very intentionally to ensure his students understanding and wellbeing (which can be a rarity for a QR credit and a PLSC class). This was also the most dedicated group of TFs I've ever had: Tylir put in the WORK to ensure we grasped the mechanics of everything, Zoey was so helpful in Zoom office hours and in providing round-the-clock email support, and Mel Pavliki! dont have enough words to describe everything she put into this course, from the incredibly detailed write-ups of course content to the immense patience and energy she brought to the HOURS of extra office hours she hosted to prepare us for tests. She is the most caring and enthusiastic TF I have encountered at Yale by far, and I would count her as one of the best among all the teaching professionals I've encountered across my education. This is a great QR credit that pushed me to think more critically about the ways in which I make decisions in the world. Weaknesses: Not to be the girl who asks for harder tests when the last one had me HYPERVENTILATING, but the ways in which the tests were hard didnt necessarily push us towards the limits of our comprehension. The last one in particular had a twist that was unnecessarily stressful and insufficiently impactful for the extra work it placed on me. I also wish we got into the philosophical implications of game theory more, but I understand why we had to stay on topic.
1781053	Very well organized with lectures and Psets. 3 non-cumulative exams.
1785447	I wish that some of the office hours were offered at later times, as my course schedule conflicted with the ones around lunch time.
1786407	Great class no notes
1787563	The content was interesting to learn and was easy to understand once I put in the time and effort. The lectures are sometimes hard to follow along (for instance, some key concepts don't have clear definitions). Psets are not too difficult but office hours sometimes makes you more confused.
1788316	Strengths: the TFs are amazing. The material is interesting and the PSETS are doable. Weaknesses: lectures do not give the skills to do the PSET; must go to TF office hours to do PSETS
1790467	Strengths - great professor + structure of the class (50 minute classes that you can stay engaged in, weekly psets) Weaknesses- the last unit felt really rushed / not taught as clearly
1790983	strengths: straight-forward, timely grading with feedback, p sets collaborative and not too difficult, office hours very helpful, content is fun weaknesses: lectures don't really make sense all of the time bc his rhetoric is not palatable for someone taking their first game theory class and he moves super fast, must go to OH for psets, exams only have a few problems so you can't really afford any mistakes, section quality depends highly on which TF you get, some not helpful at all
1794099	Strengths: great lectures, good organization, fair exams, amazing TAs, interesting content put in the context of real-world Weakness: not a weakness of the course, but if you are not following lectures/attending OH, it is easy to lose track of the content
1795259	Strength: game theory is certainly fun. Weakness: I really think the pace can be faster and the depth is probably not really very satisfying for a college student.
1795924	Strengths- Prof Turner is really great and welcomes questions. The TF's were great and went above and beyond Weaknesses- Sometimes the strategies needed to solve the p sets would either be behind the lectures or simply not taught in the lectures, making office hours necessary.

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#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 48

Respondent	Answer
1797092	Strengths: I think this is great course. The material is very straightforward. You will truly get out what you put into this course. You are given instructions about exactly what you need to know to succeed. Weaknesses: I wish there was more application/example games that relate to current affairs and political issues. It was really cool to learn about the filibuster and presidential veto from a game theory perspective. Even just starting off lecture with a news headline and how game theory could relate to it or help us make sense of it would be awesome.
1799538	The strengths of this course was the format of 3 exams, problem sets, and no final. I liked that all lectures were available after class. He also was generous with the curve. There were a lot of weaknesses. While Professor Turner and the TF's are great people and super kind, the lectures were extremely fast paced, almost impossible to follow. Some lectures were not at all related to exam material. I felt that I had to work for hours by myself grinding made up problems, lectures and rewriting notes to help me pass this class with a decent grade. I thought that sections were not very useful and unstructured, and there was just not a clear tie to political science, which I was a bit dissapointed about. I felt very frustrated during and after exams, and felt that while the professors and TF's were super nice, I was alone in my learning process and the course was not structured in way that promotes learning. This was an extremely hard class for me, and I really would warn against these factors
1800656	Strengths: Informations is presented fairly clearly in lectures, with lecture materials being made accessible; lecture slides were incredibly helpful. Sections made problem sets much more approachable, and TFs were the absolute best! Prof. Turner genuinely cared about student success and grading policies were more than fair. Weaknesses: I found the subject fairly straightforward but I can absolutely see how it might be confusing, and it might be helpful to provide more step-by-step examples for extra practice.
1800663	Strengths are TA support and pace of the class. Weaknesses are extremely low margin of error on exams.
1801081	As a humanities major, I loved how this course was taught with only algebra and no calculus. It let me engage with the theories and concepts without being too stuck up on the numbers themselves. The theories are the main thing you should take away from this class because they're applicable in every walk of life--especially if you're interested in politics.
1802536	I only have good things to say. The course was well structured, the Psets were engaging, my TF, Zoe, was great, and Professor Turner was an amazing instructor.
1803934	This course does a great job of starting slow to put everyone on the same page and then progressing at a stimulating pace to learn really interesting things and develop helpful skills.
1806147	A strength is that lectures where short and packed with information. One weakness is the connections between the textbook and class.
1807127	Professor Turner was the real strength of the course!
1807315	Great class, not that much work, fair midterms and assessments. Very interesting.
1810024	This course is extremely well organized. Ian Turner is a great professor who is fair and an engaging lecturer. Overall, the course provides an interesting introduction to game theory and how to apply it in political science!
1810031	TFs were amazing.
1810060	The psets prepared me very well for the exam. I do wish there were more relevant political examples we looked into.
1810067	Strengths: Prof. Turner is nice and cares about student learning. You also get to learn all the basics of game theory in a less intimidating format. Weaknesses: The major weakness is the grading. 75% of your final grade is exams. Even though the exams are not cumulative, which helps, it does mean that for every point you miss on an exam, it amounts to 0.5% off your final grade which can add up. I would have done things differently had I done this math beforehand. I think problem sets could be weighted more and exams weighted less.
1810558	Strengths: Professor Turner was amazing, and the course was organized very well. The problem sets were very relevant to the exams, and the material was very interesting. Weaknesses: My TF could have been better organized and clearer during sections. It would have been nice for TFs to have been given some problems or slideshow to go over. Also, it would have been nice to get practice exams.
1811461	Professor Turner was a very engaging professor. It was clear that he was very passionate about his field of study and eager to help us learn.

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#3 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 48

Respondent	Answer
1813528	It should be curved and created as to challenge students to succeed rather than punish them for silly mistakes or notation errors when you clearly understand the topic. Half the topics are confusing differentiations of ECON 159.
1813530	I loved this class. There aren't a lot of "weaknesses" I can immediately point out. The strengths of this class are the amazing TFs, which helped me so so so much during the semester. I also liked how the classes are online, which was nice when I missed a couple classes because of an illness.
1814662	I believe the material for the last end of the course can be shortened, it proved to be a lot of material in very little time
1817799	The lectures were strong and I also really appreciated that the tests were so similar to the problem sets. The class felt as though it was built for students to succeed and learn rather than tricking them.
1818211	There could be more practice problems available to us to prepare for midterms.
1820530	Strengths: Very approachable (no calculus needed) and interesting material. Professor Turner is an engaging lecturer, happy to answer questions, and genuinely teaches. Actually enjoyed this class a lot more than I thought I would as a humanities major. Definitely a very doable class if you put in the effort, and TFs very helpful. Weakness: There were some class cancelations that threw off the pace of the course a bit. Wish we had more time in some weeks to study for the exam, or that we were able to spend more time on the material.
1821062	I loved this course, and it had so many strengths! Professor Turner is an excellent lecturer, one of the TFs had really helpful office hours, and the problem sets were set up to help you do well on exams as long as you practiced a lot. It was a manageable QR credit that I greatly enjoyed.

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Fall 2024	EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	PLSC	Social Sciences	Responded: 84
Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#4 What is your overall assessment of this course?

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.0 ±1.0	4.0 ±1.1	3.9 ±1.1	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
poor	2
fair	3
good	11
very good	24
excellent	23

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Turner, Ian (P)				

#5 The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.
Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.2 ±0.9	4.1 ±0.9	4.1 ±0.9	4.0 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	1
disagree	2
neutral	7
agree	25
strongly agree	28

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Fall 2024	EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	PLSC	Social Sciences	Responded: 84
Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#6 I received clear feedback that improved my learning.

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.0 ±1.0	4.0 ±1.0	3.7 ±1.1	3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	2
disagree	2
neutral	13
agree	23
strongly agree	23

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Fall 2024	EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	PLSC	Social Sciences	Responded: 84
Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#7 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:
Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
3.2 ±0.9	3.2 ±0.8	3.2 ±0.9	3.3 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
much less	2
less	9
same	30
greater	19
much greater	3

Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled: 97
Fall 2024	EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	PLSC	Social Sciences	Responded: 84
Instructors				
Turner, Ian (P)				

#8 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:
Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 21

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
2.9 ±0.7	2.9 ±0.8	2.9 ±0.9	3.1 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
much less	1
less	17
same	36
greater	8
much greater	1

Term Fall 2024	Course EP&E 295 01/PLSC 344 01 - Game Theory& Political Science	Primary Dept PLSC	Primary Division Social Sciences	Enrolled: 97 Responded: 84
Instructors Turner, Ian (P)				

#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 45

Respondent	Answer
1780126	YES! If you are going to take a game theory class, take this one. Prof. Turner is great and the class is engaging while still being very informative. I learned a lot without being too overwhelmed by the workload.
1780296	yes! i came in knowing absolutely nothing and i've come out finally knowing what a nash equilibrium is. i also use the principles we learned about to understand human behavior which is fun. great senior year class for me
1780474	I would recommend this course to students who are willing to study extensively in preparation for the exams. It is doable, but for me, it took a lot of time outside of class to hammer in the concepts. I took this class because I needed a QR credit, and I felt that the workload was appropriate.
1780495	Yes! This is a perfect QR credit for a person who is more social sciences/humanities-focused, in that it mobilizes math towards asking critical questions about power, institutions, and the end results of rationality. Professor Turner is an amazing facilitator, and I was shocked to find just how much I enjoyed this class. By the end, it didnt feel like a requirement, but a space that I was actively excited to return to. I dont think I could have profitably deviated from taking this course at this timethis was an excellent equilibrium to arrive at! However, you have to engage with this course to get anything out of itGO TO OFFICE HOURS!
1785447	Yes, I thought the course material was very interesting and especially rewarding when the answer was reached. I enjoyed solving the complexity of the game trees and matrices most.
1786407	yes definitely over the other game theory
1787486	Yes definitely! Three exams instead of final and midterm, very interesting and enjoyable. Great QR credit.
1787563	Definitely. This is a good QR if you're a political science major and need to fill the methodology requirement.
1788219	Very interesting concepts and it added another dimension to political science that I find very useful when thinking about the field as a whole. Turner is engaging and funny.
1788316	Yes, I would. But it is hard. I had a great TF and she is the reason why I succeeded! You must go to office hours if you want to succeed.
1790467	Highly! One of my favorite classes ever taken at Yale.
1790983	yes! but take it with friends so you can collab on p sets and study together. otherwise it might be kind of challenging esp if you don't have any background in game theory or poli sci
1794099	Yes. Probably one of my favorite classes at Yale. Prof. Turner is genuinely kind and passionate about the subject. The TAs are also amazing and offer great advice on PSets and how to best prepare for exams. Great content, not too computation heavy.
1795259	I mean, if they want to know some game theory BUT really have no time for any more serious game theory class. Then, this is not bad.
1795924	I would recommend this course. I've taken a few poli sci classes so if I go further in the major..I felt like understanding game theory would be nice. Overall though, I took this as an manageable QR class and I felt like it lived up to that expectation. Exams are very fair, no "final exam." As long as you're understanding the psets, you should be able to do well on exams.
1797092	Yes. Not very difficult as long as you actually put in the work, which there isn't a lot of. Interesting material and I actually do think it has changed the way I see the world/world issues. I read the news differently now.
1799538	I would recommend this course to a student if they are very analytical and are able to wrap their heads around concepts easily. I would also reccomend this course to an individual that is a poli sci major if they have no experience in data science and need the requirement. Aside from that, I had a tough time and unless you are really ready to lock in and learn each concept yourself, I would suggest a different class.
1800656	Yes, I would recommend this to anyone because game theory is applicable to much more than politics and this is a great class!

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#9 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor(s): Turner, Ian (P)

Declined to Answer Question: 45

Respondent	Answer
1800663	I would recommend it if they have the time to really learn the material. To do well, one must learn everything to a very high degree.
1801081	Yes! Wonderful course. Great QR gut for humanities majors and also super interesting to learn about.
1801364	Yes!
1802536	Yes- very interesting and easy to get a good grade if you dedicate time to studying and understanding the material.
1803934	Yes! Definitely take it even if you aren't a GLBL major. In my opinion it was a better learning environment than the other game theory classes (at least from shopping period)
1806147	Yes, game theory is an interesting concept to learn about and great for understanding how politicians may come to making decisions.
1807127	Absolutely, just because of how engaging Professor Turner was.
1807315	Yup! Great game theory class! Fun examples and not too hard
1810031	Yes! Great intro game theory class and not as hard has pollacks
1810042	Only if you need a QR, but it is not as easy to get an A as one might think.
1810060	Yes! It adds in political nuance to game theory.
1810067	I would only recommend it if you are genuinely interested in game theory or if you need the class to fulfill a major requirement. If you're taking it for a QR credit, you should probably pick something else unless you are prepared to spend a good amount of your time on this course.
1810302	Yes!! Professor Turner is a great lecturer and organizes the course in a manner that is easy to follow and understand.
1810558	I would definitely recommend this course! It was very interesting and well-organized, and I learned a lot! Professor Turner was amazing.
1811461	I would recommend this course to anyone even remotely interested in game theory. The course does a good job breaking down abstract ideas into digestible pieces.
1813528	No I would avoid this course. The course topics are very confusing and not at all helpful. The course rewards cramming methods, learning notation and avoiding any mistakes rather than actual reasoning and intellect.
1813530	I would definitely recommend this course to another student, even if they aren't sure about political science. I just had so much fun learning about Game Theory in this class; I'll definitely take Game Theory again.
1814662	Yes for EP&E majors looking for the game theory requirement
1817799	I would absolutely recommend this course especially for students who are not super comfortable with QR classes.
1820530	Yes! Very interesting and super doable if you put in the effort. Also manageable workloads and upward curves for the (noncumulative!) exams that aren't really that difficult in the first place if you just pay attention in lectures, do the psets, and practice. A class that developed my logic and pushed me to think! So glad I took this course.
1821062	Yes, absolutely! The course is well organized, and it is very clear what you need to know to do well, mainly getting very familiar with the problems on the problem sets. As long as you put in the work and go to TF office hours when you need help, it is a manageable QR credit that I greatly enjoyed as a non-STEM major.

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Instructors
Turner, Ian (P)

#10 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor(s): Pavlik, Melissa

Responses for Instructor: 10
Declined to Answer Question: 11

Respondent	Answer
1780296	strengths: everything from encouraging to fun, all things that mark a good teacher and person
1780495	I dont have enough words to describe everything Mel put into this course, from the incredibly detailed write-ups of course content to the immense patience and energy she brought to the HOURS of extra office hours she hosted to prepare us for tests. In a fluorescent-lit room filled with anxious students, she managed to create a space that was not only enriching, but fun. She is the most caring and enthusiastic TF I have encountered at Yale by far, and I would count her as one of the best among all the teaching professionals Ive encountered across my education.
1790467	Melissa was one of the best TAs! Her review sessions are the only reason I did well on exams I think.
1797092	MELISSA IS WONDERFUL. SHE IS BRILLIANT. She got me through the course. Anytime I did not understand something from lecture, I could rely on her BEAUTIFULLY HAND WRITTEN notes on canvas. She was great at explaining concepts in person. She was very generous and flexible with her time but also put up healthy boundaries. What more can I ask for. Thank you Mel!!!!
1803934	Best review session I've had at Yale.
1804143	Such an amazing TF, so supportive and willing to help
1810080	I cannot thank Melissa enough for the incredible support she provided throughout the course. While the professor did a good job covering the content, it was Melissa's explanations that really helped solidify my understanding. She took the time to break down complex concepts and offer real-world examples, making everything so much easier to grasp. Her review session/office hours before the final was very helpful and she took her time to go over everyones questions. She even extended her office hours and stayed longer which shows her dedication. Without her guidance, Im certain I wouldn't have done as well on the final. She was always patient, willing to answer questions, and never made anyone feel dumb for asking. She went above and beyond to ensure everyone was on track for the final.
1813530	I looooooove Melissa. Melissa was so so so helpful at explaining hard topics in game theory and gave lots of examples when the students didn't understand. She answered every question with patience and enthusiasm, and overall made me feel engaged with the course. She always encouraged students to keep trying. So grateful that I was able to have her as my TF!!
1818211	I was not in Melissa's section, however I frequently attended her office hours which greatly improved my understanding of the material. She went above and beyond to ensure we felt prepared, especially ahead of midterms. She would hold many extra office hours and answer emails quickly. She was very good at explaining complicated concepts in simpler terms. I would not have done as well as I did in the course if it wasn't for her.
1821062	Melissa was wonderful! Her office hours were so helpful in preparing me for exams and made me feel confident that I knew the material.

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#11 What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?
 Instructor(s): Pavlik, Melissa

Responses for Instructor: 15
 Declined to Answer Question: 6

Average and Standard Deviation			
Question Average	Dept	Div	School
5.0 ±0.0	4.4 ±0.9	4.3 ±1.0	4.3 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	0
very good	0
excellent	15

