



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Discussion Courses - Spring 2019

Course: LNST 188 Section: 021 - U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

Instructor: Nicholas Jenkins Cross Course: POSC 161 Section: 021 - U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

Question # 18: YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS ON YOUR GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR'S TEACHING SKILLS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS IN THE TEXTBOX BELOW. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO 2000 CHARACTERS.

- Nick was super helpful in and out of the classroom. He did an incredible job at reinforcing the lecture material during discussion. Super knowledgeable and helpful.
- At the beginning of the quarter he went in letting us know that this sort of relations is not his specialty. However, even though it was not his specialty he did a good job at becoming an expert on the material along with us and being able to answer questions we had. Did a great job as a TA
- Nick was a great TA. He helped clarify information, added useful perspective and was accessible throughout the quarter.
- Nick does an excellent job at helping his students have a better understanding on the class material and how it all goes together. Very approachable and is helpful in preparing students for exams and papers.
- Really great TA. Super friendly and helpful. But he was a harsh grader. The professor is one who is incredibly vague in what he is looking for, and it felt as if we would get docked points for not reading the professors mind and knowing exactly what they wanted. It felt a bit unfair, because it felt we were being tested, not on whether we knew the answer, but if we could guess what the professor was looking for. It was incredibly frustrating, and made the class as a whole anxiety inducing. There were many times were I was confident in the answer, but was afraid I would get the answer wrong because I just was not sure what the professor wanted. For example, if the question asked about a specific event, I may correctly explain what led up to the event and what occurred in the event. But if the TA/professor wanted an answer regarding the EFFECT of the event, I would get docked points, even if they did not specify what they wanted to focus on. I seriously considered dropping the class various times, and then switching my letter grade to s/nc, simply because I was not confident in my ability to guess what the professor or TA wanted.
- Really nice and helpful!
- A great teaching assistant, but an even better person. In my three years at this university, Nick is arguably the best teaching assistant I have had. He is very helpful, and is always willing to answer any questions I have about the course material. If it was not for Nick I believe that I may have had a more difficult time being able to comprehend the professor's material and prepare myself for exams. Nick has been instrumental for my success in the classroom and I am not sure if I would be as confident going into my final exam if it were not for him.