



# Individual Teaching Assistant Report Fall 2023 for UGS 303 - THE MATH OF POLITICS (63965, 63970, 63975, 63980, 63985, 63990, 63995, 64000, 64005) (Olgahan Cat)

Project Title: **Course Evaluations Fall 2023**

Courses Audience: **151**

Responses Received: **69**

Response Ratio: **45.7%**

## Report Comments

### Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin

The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. The two sets of scales used for core evaluation questions and the associated weights are:

Strongly Agree (5)  
Agree (4)  
Neutral (3)  
Disagree (2)  
Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)  
Very Good (4)  
Satisfactory (3)  
Unsatisfactory (2)  
Very Unsatisfactory (1)

The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

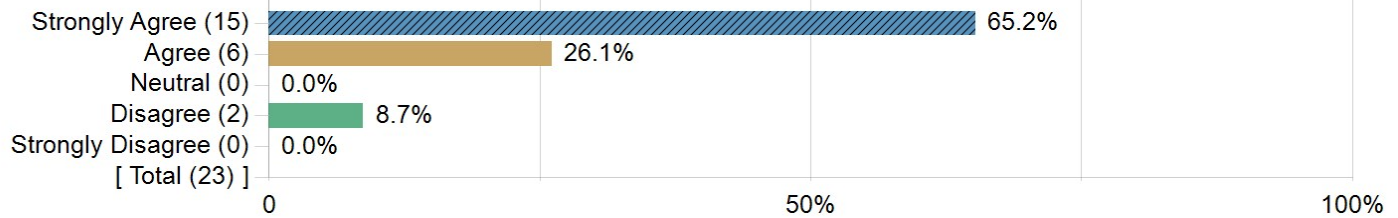
The number of students (e.g. respondents) marking each option is reported for each of the items. These frequency distributions provide information about the level of student ratings and the spread and shape of the class distribution of responses. The distributions thus provide a picture of student perception of a course.

Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no individual method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor.

Creation Date: **Friday, January 19, 2024**

## Teaching Assistant Questions

The TA was available to help me as needed.



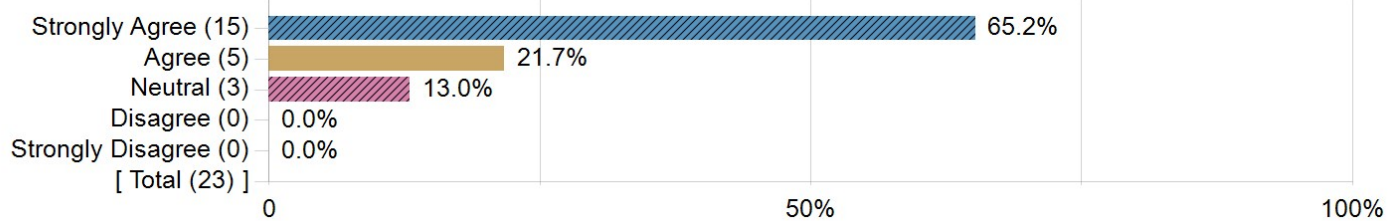
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.48

I felt the TA was approachable.



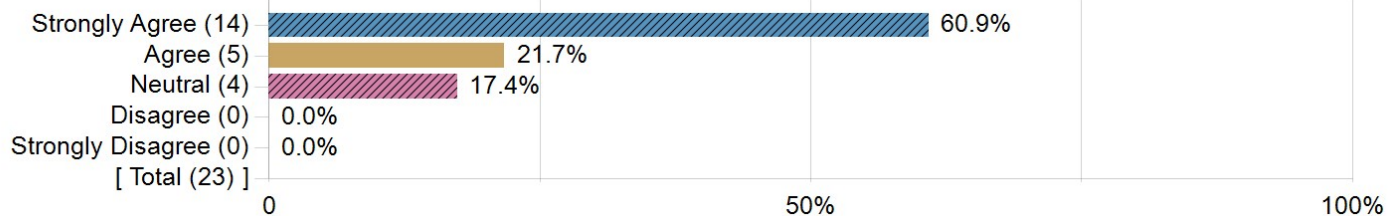
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.52

The TA explained course concepts, subject matter, or other course-related topics in a way that helped me learn.



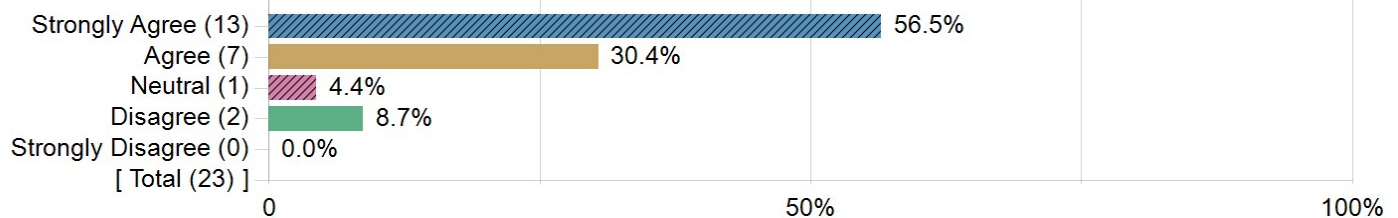
Statistics

Value

Mean

4.43

The TA was able to address most of my questions related to the course concepts, subject -matter, or topics.

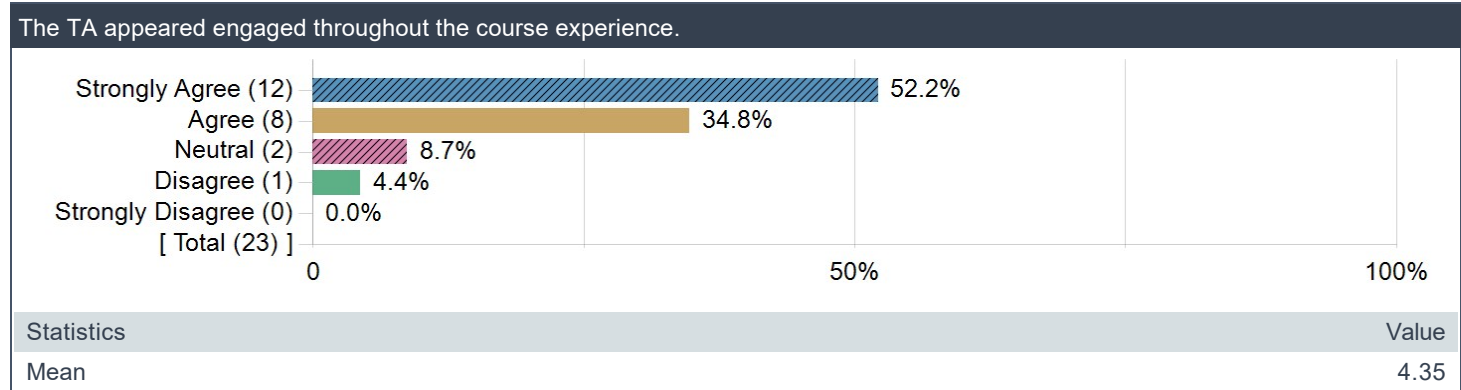
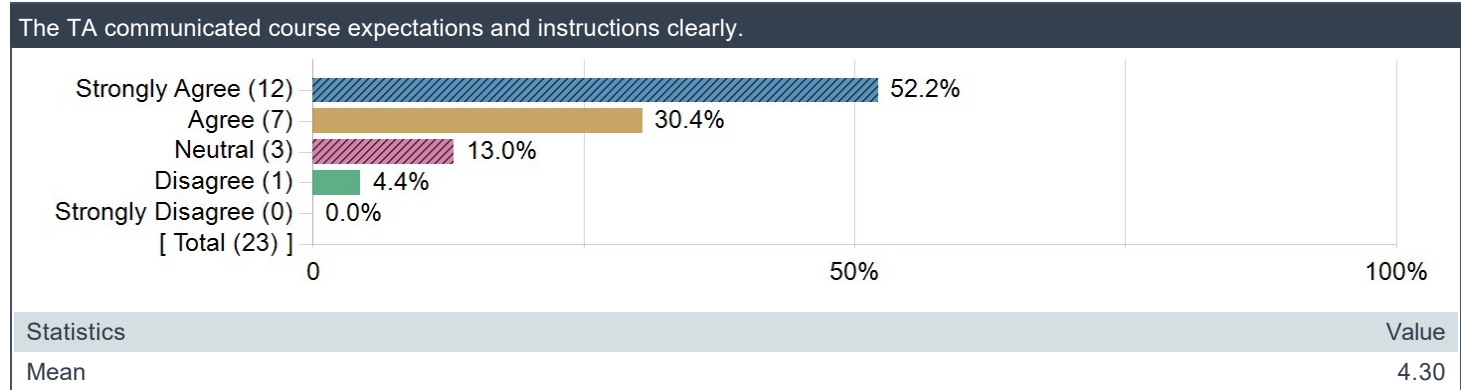
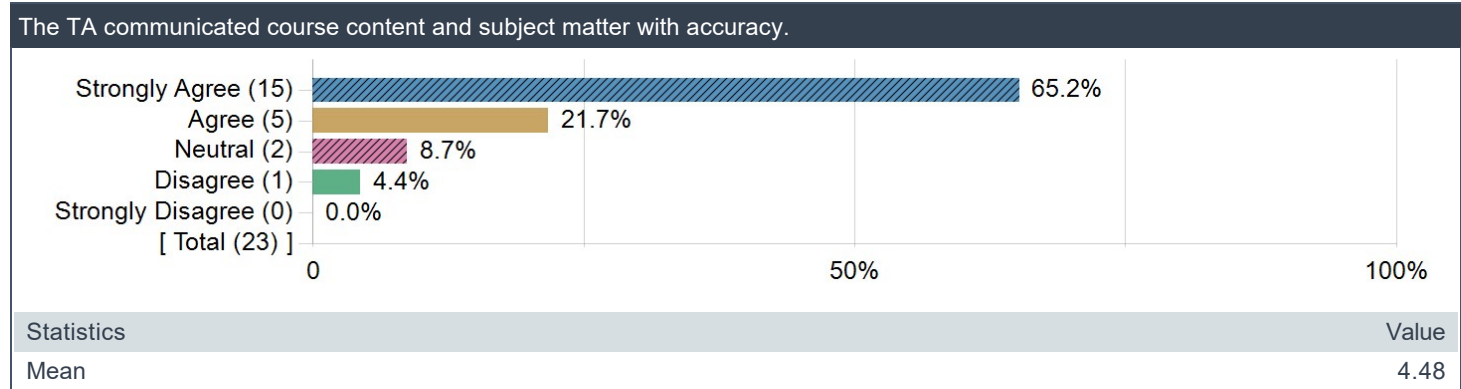


Statistics

Value

Mean

4.35



## Comment Questions

**Identify aspects of your interactions with your teaching assistant that were most effective in helping your learning.**

Comments
The presentations reviewing the material really added to my understanding
All of it.
Going over the answers to the practice problems in discussion section helped clear up any confusion about answers and the underlying concepts.
Him doing practice examples in discussion
Easy to ask questions
Explanations were generally accurate and felt well understood and explained.
he was really nice in section
Approachable and willing to help.
Help during office hours and explanations during sessions.
The sections were a good reinforcement of material before tests.
The presentations that the TA had put together every week helped me understand the material better.
Olgahan Cat was very direct and did not waste time on nonsense. He also was very respectful to students who answered wrongly and politely encouraged participation. At the beginning I thought his accent was going to be a barrier, however, that is quite the opposite. He articulated very well and seemed very knowledgeable over the subject.
The discussion sections were very helpful
He explained practice problems thoroughly which I found helpful, and he re-explained class concepts in a different way.
He was super helpful and always open for questions. Helped me better understand the material in the discussions and he was available even when it was not the most convenient for him. I really appreciated him for this.
They were direct in their explanations and gave us step by step practice problems to go over before exams.
The sections were very concise, he helped us understand the content very well in a limited amount of time.

**What is one thing the teaching assistant could do differently to help improve future students' learning in this course?**

Comments
Nothing
Hmm, I'm not sure, Olgahan was that guy. If he released his completed file for our discussion after his block of classes had ended that would've ben helpful. Esp for people who missed both lecture and discussion.
The TA might be able to improve by encouraging students to attend and participate in discussion section, since I noticed attendance began dropping rapidly as it became clear the TA wasn't especially engaged in discussion section or even using the full time.
write clearer when doing problem on board
Make students more involved in discussions
Providing a clearer outline of what would be going over for the session would be helpful.
finding more ways to engage students in discussion section
Maybe force us to meet all the other people in our discussion section.
Maybe just making sure every student understands the material in session.
The sections usually felt unnecessary and short.
I feel like the the TA could have been more approachable.
To be honest I don't really know anything he could have done better. Maybe make the sections a little longer so they feel more beneficial(however I would understand it when he would go over the short lecture).
Nothing! Thanks for your help with the course!
Perhaps be more engaging– that's just something to practice though.
Nothing he was amazing
Nothing more to suggest.
I would say if they didn't cancel as many sections, and respond to Outlook emails more.