



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

Course: ENTM 020 Section: 002 - BEES AND BEEKEEPING
Instructor: Robert Straser

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.

- I believe Robert has great potential and was Professor Borris right hand man. Very personable and friendly. He went out of his way to show me how to suit up into the bee suit individually (I was in a car accident, so I missed the first couple of classes), and I appreciate the time he took out of his day to do that for me.
- Rob was very approachable. He also es organized and encouraged us to interact with our peers.
- Rob was a great TA overall!
- This instructor's teaching skills were very helpful and just amazing. I was able to do very well on the midterm because of all the helpful questions that he asked in discussion. I was also able to ask him questions about the bee colony that I was assigned and it was truly helpful.
- Rob is a great TA who is helpful and available when you need him. He is very easy to approach and talk to! Truly appreciated him.
- Great TA who cared for his students. I needed extra time for my submission of my paper questions and he was more than willing to give it to me. Also, he gave a final review session extra outside of class. Extremely knowledgeable and a 10/10 TA. Hire him again
- Rob shows a great knowledge about bees and beekeeping. He knows how to effectively clarify any dense readings to students who are not well versed with scientific papers. During labs he is constantly making sure everyone is safe and helps people understand the structures of the bee's ecosystem. Moreover, he encourages people to participate and treats everyone with respect.
- Robert does a great job at clarifying concepts and materials that are not understood during lecture. He accomplishes this by using up discussion section time wisely by asking if there is questions, or even making power-points on topics. For example, I remember that one time someone needed clarification on bumblebees during lecture. In return, Robert made a power-point on bumblebees to present in discussion section. Robert also has an approachable manner and is always willing to help students out in office hours. Overall, he is not only an effective teacher, but also very helpful and approachable.
- TA Rob was great, enthusiastic and nice. He always answered our questions even if he had to do some extra searching for the answer. Very informative and made sure I understood what he was explaining to me. I would definitely love to take another class with him.
- A great TA. He knew his material and was always helpful!
- TA Rob was great!! Very knowledgeable about different kinds of bees out there and how they live. Very helpful too out in the bee apiary, explaining signs of diseases and why bees may be acting a certain way at the time. TA Rob gets an A+++++ for being helpful and great!
- I enjoyed the information you shared with us and was very thankful for the calm attitude and approachable demeanor you expressed.
- Rob was an great TA for this beekeeping class. He was constantly helping us in the apiary and efficiently led the discussion sections where we presented. He has great information about wasps and definitely helped me with some tips on grad school.
- Super helpful and very approachable. Office hours helped with the course.
- Robert showed great knowledge of the subjects and was able to answer all questions anyone had for him. He was kind and helpful. I would love to have him as an instructor!
- Rob is great! You can tell he is very knowledgeable and has great passion for his field! He is very nice and approachable, and is willing to answer

any questions.

- Great TA! Very helpful when needed.
- Overall was very knowledgeable about the subject and provided the class with supplemental information outside of the course materials. If you possible, can you provide the class with fun facts about your current research or more bee/ wasp facts?
- Great Guy.
- Friendly, respectful, intelligent.
- Was very helpful and considerate. Always encouraged us to ask questions. Very positive.



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

Course: ENTM 010 Section: 012 - NATURAL HISTORY OF INSECTS
Instructor: Robert Straser

Question # 20: 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.

- I really liked the jeopardy game we would play before taking the midterms. They really helped but I also think it would be a good idea to have students complete the study guide prior to section and then go over the ones most people found difficulty on. Overall was a really good TA.
- Overall, a very understanding TA and was passionate about what he was teaching.
- Robert is very nice and approachable. He also did an overall good job teaching the material and made discussion fun and interesting.
- Robert is passionate about entomology, and he always made lab section a fun learning experience. If there was something that we did not understand, he always made sure to clarify any confusion. Overall, Robert is an excellent TA.
- He was really helpful and explained things that we did not really go over in lecture well. Helped me better understand the material.
- This TA was helpful at time when needed.
- Very helpful and encouraging TA who did a great job reiterating the difficult concepts in the class
- Awesome instructor! Very organized, funny, and nice. I always looked forward to going to this lab and lecture.
- It was a really fun and laid back learning environment.
- Goes over lecture material in a concise manner. Very good TA.



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Laboratory Courses - Fall 2018

Course: ENTM 010 Section: 011 - NATURAL HISTORY OF INSECTS
Instructor: Robert Straser

Question # 20: 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.

- Robert was an awesome TA. He's super passionate in this subject, and I enjoyed learning about his own research with parasitoid wasps. He went over questions on in-class assignments and on quizzes, so that we were not confused come exam time. The classes were interesting and never boring. I really enjoyed the jeopardy review classes!
- Mr. Straser was a very helpful teaching assistant. He made the material interesting and made sure we all understood what was being taught in lecture. The quizzes were very helpful and were based on lecture. The assignments also contributed to my understanding of the course. He encouraged his students to ask questions and made it clear that he was available by email and office hours. Great teaching assistant and will become an even better professor.
- Great TA. You are so natural at what you do. I don't know what it is but you keep me interested in your own way. good luck to ya.
- He is a great TA and really cares about his students.
- Possibly going over every week what Professor Trumble went over might have been a bit more helpful. The quizzes were effective but the fact that the course was solely relying on attendance to lecture for book notes, I felt like the discussion could have at least highlighted what was gone over in lecture. The activities did keep me interested in the course. Grading was fair and the final project was interesting and beneficial to my learning.
- Robert was very helpful throughout the quarter. He is easy to approach, and accommodating to a student's needs. If any critiques, it would be to explain in-class topics more in depth during discussion.
- This was a fun course overall to take, I was worried the labs would be having us toughen up many bugs that creeped me out but it was much more instructive and most of the insects were dead already so that helped! The jeopardy games were a really fun and helpful way to memorize information and talk with my classmates. The field trip was fun too because normally labs don't take field trips so the information I learned on the trip I remember well because there was a real life example to go behind the lessons. Robert was very friendly, knowledgeable and open and made it very easy for the class to feel comfortable enough to participate and enjoy the lab. One of the best run labs I've attended so far in my three years at UCR.
- Rob was helpful and fun to have as a TA. I enjoyed discussion section as it was always interesting. I learned a lot from him and he helped clear some concepts I was confused on from lecture. I would gladly take another discussion section with Rob.
- He was such an amazing TA I enjoyed all the activities that we did in his Lab class. He made it fun to learn Entomology and I would take his Lab class again if he teaches other Entomology courses. What a great Quarter it was!
- Rob was a wonderful TA. He was enthusiastic about the material while also being very organized and supportive. He was very kind to his students, and was always available to answer questions. He would often clarify any confusion both through fun in class activities and through informative discussions. In addition, he made me very interested in ecology and entomology. I owe a great amount of thanks to Rob for the success that I've achieved in this class.



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- Great TA!
- Robert is a fantastic TA he always had jokes to tell to make us cheer up and gave clear instructions on how to do the activities for lab. He would clear up things that students would get confused with in lecture and always told us to go to his office hours for anymore help with the material. He had a friendly personality that made him connect with his discussion sections, made time fly by, and gave presentations that were interesting.
- Robert was very enthusiastic about Entomology and his own studies. He made the class extremely lively as we played Jeopardy to study for our midterms and had us work in groups many of the times. We introduced a bug and made a short story for them, I found that quite fun. Robert was also super flexible and available to his student who needed extra help with studying or simply understanding material. When he passed around the sign up sheet everyday that asked, "Is there something you need to revisit?" and that was very thoughtful of him to add.
- Rob is very organized and prepared.
- He was very friendly and always prepared for discussion. He was helpful with class and made lecture clear. He gave us little hints on how to study, which was very helpful. Overall, he made the class entertaining and interesting.
- Robert Straser was overall a very helpful and amazing TA. I appreciated the fact that he repeatedly always asked if we needed help with any of the course material. I liked that he always seemed enthusiastic about teaching the material and always tried to make it somehow fun in the discussion.
- Rob always seemed excited to teach us the material. Discussion was always fun and interactive.
- keep it up
- Although the jeopardy may not have been as popular to other students(at least in our class), I really enjoyed the activities we did while having Rob as my TA and wish the quarter wasn't over. I think he could get along with any person or insect. Thanks for the wonderful quarter! I almost wish I changed my major before! I think the best thing you might find helpful would be to find ways to engage the students more to participate. Perhaps little multiple choice practice quizzes where people raise their hands on their idea of a right answer. Also, the first presentation class was so amazing getting to look at the microscopes I really enjoyed that, as well as the drawing part.
- Rob did a great job of explain in further detail topics discussed in lecture and utilized videos to help better my understanding of certain insects' behaviors. He was confident in his teaching of any information and was able to answer in great depth any questions I had.
- The TA makes the class easier to understand.



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Laboratory Courses - Fall 2018

Course: ENTM 010 Section: 015 - NATURAL HISTORY OF INSECTS
Instructor: Robert Straser

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- Got me interested in a subject I did not care about. Thank you
- Very knowledgeable guy and very passionate about the subject and the greater scope of entomology. Hopefully this guy becomes a professor soon. I sure hope so.
- He always cared for his students and if we needed any help that he would always be there to help us out in anything.
- Rob was such a wonderful TA to have this quarter. He's very fast when emailing things about lecture notes and clarification with specific things. His discussion section time is a bit of a drag, but he makes his discussion fun regardless of the time.
- I felt that he was an effective TA to be next to professor Trumble. He was a strong contrast of pushing the knowledge to the next level.
- He was a great TA, i enjoyed the learning style of the class and he was really good at communicating with us and making sure we knew deadlines and course material. He was really easy to approach and very helpful with any questions we had. Overall he made sure that we were learning the material while having us do entertaining activities.
- I had a great time! He was a very kind and thoughtful TA. I'm just sad it is over.
- Good TA, no complaints
- Fun guy, quirky, does not waste time, good teacher, nice hair
- Super cool and respectable TA. Teaches in a fun and engaging way 10/10 would retake.



UC RIVERSIDE - Student Comments of Instructor, Laboratory Courses - Fall 2018

Course: ENTM 010 Section: 013 - NATURAL HISTORY OF INSECTS
Instructor: Robert Straser

Question # 20: 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.

- He is a very nice TA. He understands the material well and is very helpful in explaining instructions or elaborating on material that was brushed over in class. He is very understanding and works well with his students. Overall, great TA.
- Throughout discussion sections, Robert was sure to captivate the attention of every student with information regarding the course. He eloquently and coherently answered question and explained materials to all students. Every section had a clear understanding of the course. From office hours to review sessions, it is clear that he did everything possible to help students excel.
- Robert was really friendly and helpful in explaining material. I found the jeopardy review sessions helpful. He always made it clear that he was open to help anyone who needed it, whether that be in person or email.
- Rob was a very cool and fun TA to have. He had a unique way of teaching in the way that everything he said and did was very genuine. He never tried too hard to be overpowering and made the classroom feel like a good environment. He was very calm and helped us understand the material covered in lecture thoroughly. He answered any questions that we had and was always ready and in a good mood to teach despite the fact that he had back to back sections always. Definitely a very good TA and very helpful in class because he always used his time very effectively.
- Very enthusiastic about teaching the course. Was extremely helpful when preparing us for midterms and made the class enjoyable
- Very approachable and helpful, organized, and wanted us to do our best.
- You were great! Good luck with the parasitoid wasps! Loved learning about everything you made it easy. The quizzes were helpful.
- Rob is an amazing TA. I am glad I chose one of his sections! He made the course really fun and he really helps us understand the concept. He also makes the class environment comfortable and he is funny.
- Rob is great, he mentioned this was his first time being an TA for the class BUT he did great, keep doing you Rob!
- Rob was great! He tried to make the material as interesting and accessible as possible. Each lab was different and engaging. The creative aspects of the class made it significantly easier to interact with the material.
- Robert was always patient with his students and created a comfortable environment for all to participate.



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

Course: ENTM 010 Section: 014 - NATURAL HISTORY OF INSECTS
Instructor: Robert Straser

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- nice TA
- Fun to have as a TA, overall very cool guy
- My Instructor's teaching skills was great! Would take him again. He is really understanding and helpful. He helps us understand concepts by providing us with readings and showing us short films. He likes us participating in discussion and he wants us to understand material. If you ever have questions you can email him or go to his office hours. Topics we talked about were interesting and I liked that he would give us time to talk amongst ourselves and as well give our opinions to certain readings or topics we were learning about.
- He is an AMAZING TA, he is so helpful and he is always available when you need help with the homework :)
- Excellent TA! Came to every class enthusiastic and prepared with a topic. Made discussions really interesting and made me want to go to discussion to learn more! Would definitely take again! 10/10 recommend
- Great presentations overall 10/10. I really enjoyed coming to discussion sections in ENTM 10. I wish he taught all my discussion sections.
- Keep doing what you're doing, don't change a thing.
- Great TA that was very welcoming to his students. Very considerate of our study.
- Did a good job explaining the material and engaging with the students. A suggestion would be to briefly review what we learned since the last discussion (maybe spend like 10ish minutes or so). That way the students can refresh their memories (since final is accumulative). Worksheets were straightforward, did a good at answering any questions we had.
- He is a really good TA, he helped me a lot understanding the concepts. The quizzes and worksheets he gave us really helped understand the concepts. He really helped to prepare for midterms, and was very helpful when I had questions about the course project.



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- Rob was a great TA. Super friendly and approachable. He did his best in motivating and helping us out with all of our assignments. I appreciated the fact that he would emphasize how we should email him if we had any questions. He was always willing to help us out so we could do out very best. It was also super awesome how Rob would bring in live bugs for us to see. He also gave us chances to hold them, which was very exciting. Thank you for the help this quarter. Keep up the good work!
- Great instructor! He was really clear, made class interesting and helped me whenever I had questions about any of the concepts. He made me feel comfortable to participate in class and was always prepared. Overall Robert was an amazing T.A and I'm sure he will be an amazing professor one day.
- Rob is a good TA he makes discussions interacting. Some changes that could be done is not to make the the worksheets less long. There was times that the worksheets were too long that I got frustated to finish and not touch the insects.
- Robert was a great ta, probably in the top 3 that I've had throughout my undergrad journey. He was very approachable and easy to understand. He was very knowledgeable and answered all the questions I had about the course. I would definitely recommend him to my peers if they were looking to take an entomology class where he was listed as the ta.
- Rob is an amazing TA. He is so helpful and makes discussion fun and encourages us to do good. I learned alot thanks to him and Professor Kerry.
- Rob is a very approachable person and successful instructor. He cares about his students and wants them to do well. Playing his insect jeopardy is very helpful review and proof that he wants his students to enjoy learning.
- Our TARobert Straser did an amazing job in lecturing us and keeping us updated with information provided in the lecture. He took his time to make sure that students were on the same page and really emphasized the importance of the class. He's very passionate and enthusiastic about the course. Very great teacher he made everything clear and was very approachable when having concerns about the course.
- My T.A. was kept our discussions informative yet fun. He really managed to keep students awake by utilizing entertaining methods of learning the material. For example, when we played insect jeopardy before midterms, that was very helpful and fun.
- Robert always was available to help and always answered all the questions I had regarding the course. He was very engaging and encouraged us to do our work to succeed. Our discussion section definitely helped me with a better understanding of the material.
- Awesome T.A. Created helpful study games for the exams and created helpful quizzes.
- Rob is an outstanding instructor! Through his engaging teaching style and his passion for the subject, he facilitated a great learning environment for students.
- Professor Robert Straser was really good at giving his lectures in demonstration, he would understand that most people aren't entomology majors; however I wish he gave more quizzes or the quizzes he gave count more so it would help improve my grade. I would take another entomology class if he is the TA! Thank you Robert ! -Melanie Ashchyan section 15
- Rob is an amazing TA. He took time to answer questions and explained stuff that was not clear. Highlighted important information we should remember for tests. Labs were effectual with what we were learning during lecture.
- Rob was a great TA that definitely supplemented my understanding of the course material.

- Rob was one of the best T.A.s I've ever had. He responds quickly to emails and made discussion fun. He helped explain a lot of the tricky material from lecture and is very organized when he teaches. He knows how to teach entomology to people who aren't entomology majors in a very simple and useful way. I definitely wouldn't mind having him as a T.A. again.



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- Rob is one of the best TA's so far. You can tell he enjoys teaching and helping students. Always clarified information that was unclear and helped us prepare for exams. He taught multiple sections back-to-back but he never complained and was always enthusiastic about the material.
- Rob is a great TA in that he interacts with students a lot and this makes him approachable. He is also very kind and answers any questions thoroughly. He also uses his time well and takes time in teaching anything needed to be taught during discussion.
- Robert was a great TA. He was very organized and was very clear about what was going on during the course.
- Very nice and understanding TA



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- his discussion session was defiantly helpful to the course. He was able answer any question that pertained to the lecture and class.
- Mr. Straster has been one of the most effective T.A.'s I have ever had because he truly cared about his student's success. I had this discussion section early in the morning, however, it was always a pleasure to go because I knew Rob would make it a fun and informative learning experience.
- Made discussion vibrant in more ways than just one. Thank you.
- Rob was an amazing TA. He was always helpful in class and very approachable. I always saw him in lecture and he responded to my emails fairly quickly. Despite my discussion section being at 8am he was always accommodating and willing to bring the energy to the classroom. He was the one that really made entomology fun and made sure that every thing that he lectured was relevant to what were were learning in the course. I would definitely take a class with Rob again.
- Very helpful ta. Was very informative.
- These discussion sections really helped me better understand the material. I liked the activities and worksheets, as they gave a different perspective of the material in class but also clarified the material discussed in lecture. Rob was very approachable and described things very clearly.
- Very knowledgeable and understanding. Provides great feedback and advice on material. Is great with meeting during office hours/ outside of office hours. Makes labs and discussion fun and easier to understand.
- The TA was always on top of things. He would go over material and make sure that we understand it and if not he would go over it again. Overall, he was an extremely good TA and was helpful in understanding complicated information.
- Very knowledgable in insects and all things related and helped us in preparing for exams which is always important. Thank you.
- Great TA his lectures in discusion and when he guest lectures are entertaining. He is super nice and helpful. Also demonstrated an extensive knowledge on the subhect. He never cancelled class or made a mistake on grading. He is organized and jsut an overall good TA. Definitely one the best TAs I have met. 10/10



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- He is always open for questions and always wants to help as much as he can for the exams in the class.
- Rob has a great personality and is very approachable; he is always willing to answer any questions that we may have. He demonstrates a very good understanding about what is going on in the course and I like that he would always attend lecture and take the notes that we would. I do wish that the things that we discussed in lecture would have been more relevant to what we were doing in the course, something that could help us memorize the amount of information that the professor was asking us for. Overall, having Rob as a TA was a great experience, I would definitely choose him over any other entomology TA.
- Knew the material very well. Was very enthusiastic about the material and made the class very interesting. Overall was an excellent instructor.
- rob, robbie, robert, bert what can i say your love for parasitic wasps was weird but you really did make a difference in creating a midterm activity and worksheets to help us understand the material. I really appreciated it.
- After hearing Robert mention it was his first time being a TA, I was a bit surprised since it did not show. He was very effective at delivering the material during discussion. I felt like he was very hands-on and interactive with the course. He made class enjoyable by having a cordial manner and was open to questions for clarification. I hope I have other TAs like Robert that make class engaging and fun to attend.
- He's honestly very openminded and effective as a teacher. I can tell he's very passionate about the subject he teaches and has a strong desire to transfer this knowledge down to us. He's also a really likable guy. 10/10
- Very humorous and enjoyable to have as a TA. It seemed like he cared for the students and was very understanding. Made entomology an enjoyable subject by teaching relevant topics, reviewing important class material, and understanding of students' unfamiliarity with entomology.
- By far on of the best TA's I've ever had from my classes at UCR. He is very clear and super approachable. He would ask how our day was, which was super sweet but he really cares about his students and tries to make the material as understandable as possible.
- Great TA he was clear and informative during section times. His quizzes were a great outline of the course which made them relevant to the course. His energetic mood helped learning about insects less terrifying.
- Straser was always enthusiastic about entomology and attentive to students. His lessons were interactive and his friendly personality made class a good atmosphere. He was also easy to approach and often reminded students that he was always available for help. He is definitely fit for a teaching environment.