

Yuan Chang Leong
Teaching Evaluations

1. Introductory Psychology (Psych One)

Autumn 2015-2016, Spring 2015-2016

Instructors: James Gross, Bridgette Martin Hard, Greg Walton

Student ratings

Item	Median	Mean	SD
Overall teaching effectiveness	5	4.71	0.47
... was well prepared for class	5	4.93	0.27
... presented material clearly	5	4.79	0.43
... helped develop students' thinking skills	5	4.71	0.61
... had a positive and encouraging attitude towards students	5	4.86	0.36
... provided helpful comments on assignments, papers and exams	5	4.93	0.27
...explained things appropriate to students' levels of understanding	5	4.79	0.43

Note: Item 1 scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). Items 2 – 7 scored from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). N = 14.

Student comments

“YC tied his own life examples into psychology, and really showed us how much he loves psychology. He makes me want to be a better student. Whether or not I study psychology, I hope to love my major as much as he loves psychology”

“YC was exceptionally responsive and helpful when it came to providing us additional resources to solidify concepts in lecture. Moreover, his comments and insight during the R&W process was tremendously useful. YC was extremely passionate about the content and one of the best teachers I have ever had the privilege of meeting.”

“My TF did an incredible job this quarter. He was always very warm and friendly and encouraging of everyone. He spent a lot of time making himself available for feedback on R&W. He created an atmosphere that was comfortable and friendly. He presented material in a really interesting and engaging way, and wrote us emails on how to get more information. He also shared with us some big thoughts and ideas that pushed us to think deeply about how psychology is important in the real world.”

* Awarded Zimbardo Teaching Prize

**End of Year Teaching Evaluation Summary by Bridgette Martin Hard
(bridgette.hard@duke.edu)**

Yuan Chang Leong

Yuan Chang sees teaching as an important responsibility. Giving his all to his students was more than just a job each week, it was almost like a sacred duty. He put a lot of thought into his lessons, and often shared with students his logic and sometimes even his hesitations about how he wanted to best spend their time in class. He also excelled at helping students discover the “big picture” and grapple with deeper philosophical questions in a topic. For example, in a discussion of social psychology, he compared social influence to gravity: a powerful force that shapes every interaction we have with the world. Yet social influence, like gravity, doesn’t remove our personal responsibility. If you fall or even worse, push someone down a flight of stairs, is gravity to blame for the resulting injury? In some ways, yes, but in other ways most certainly not. Students detected and appreciated what they called Yuan Chang’s “strong sense of morals.”

Students also perceived and appreciated YC’s deep sense of caring. They called him “personable and unassuming” and one wrote “when I was struggling with class, YC treated me as a person and was very compassionate and understanding instead of just expecting me to output work. I feel like he truly cared about me and about my growth.”

Yuan Chang’s passion for crafting a rich educational experience for his students led them to call him “one of the best teachers I have ever had the privilege of meeting,” “the man” and the “best TA I have ever had – and I’ve had a lot by now.” One student wrote that having Yuan Chang as a TF had been critical to making Psych 1 such a great overall experience.

Yuan Chang was also a valued team member. His level of caring for his fellow TFs was always visible, and his capacity for self-reflection and intrinsic motivation to develop his teaching skills made him an inspiring colleague.

2. Judgment and Decision-Making
Spring 2015-2016
Instructor: Russell Poldrack

Student ratings

Item	Median	Mean	SD
How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?	4	4.0	0.9
How much did you learn from this course?	4	4.1	0.8
Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction?	4	4.3	0.7
How organized was the course?	4	4.3	0.6

Note: All items scored on a 5-point scale. N = 15.

Student comments

"I gained a broad base of knowledge about different judgement and decision-making theories from psychology, economics, and neuroscience. I learned about the strengths and paradoxes of human decision making in different scenarios, as well as how to go about replicating a published study. Analyzing data from the replication project increased my skills in R."

"Yuan Chang was very supportive and helpful throughout the replication project and the class in general."

3. Introduction to Perception**Fall 2016-2017****Instructor: Kalanit Grill-Spector****Student ratings**

Item	Median	Mean	SD
How much did you learn from this TA?	4	3.8	1.0
Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this TA?	4	3.8	0.6

Note: Item 1 scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (Nothing) to 5 (A great deal). Item 2 was scored from 1 (Not effective at all) to 5 (Extremely effective). N = 20.

Student comments

“Of all the section leaders, I would say Yuan Chang was the best at lecturing sections. His slides were always pertinent, and his explanations helped deepen my understanding of concepts in the course.”

“He has a great way of explaining things, just really clear and concise without going off on any tangents.”

“I think he helped me a lot when it came to a solid understanding of the material, he filled in the gaps that I was missing from the lecture slides and the book.”

4. Introduction to Statistical Methods**Winter 2017-2018****Instructor: Russell Poldrack****Student ratings**

Item	Median	Mean	SD
How much did you learn from this instructor?	4	4.3	0.8
Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this instructor?	5	4.5	0.6

Note: Item 1 scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (Nothing) to 5 (A great deal). Item 2 was scored from 1 (Not effective at all) to 5 (Extremely effective). N = 21.

Student comments**General comments:**

“He helped simplify the statistical portion of the course for me and helped a great deal with my code and our final project.”

“Friendly and approachable. He also cares so much about each student in the class, and I know I'm not alone in saying that he's one of the best TAs I've ever had”

In response to what aspects of this instructor's teaching were most helpful:

“How he laid out the instruction in section in a clear and step-by-step manner, with materials to help us with concepts during the week”

“Very effective oral communication in section”

“He did a great job simplifying concepts that were hard to understand.”

5. Brain and Decision-Making**Spring 2018-2019****Instructor: Brian Knutson****Student ratings**

Item	Median	Mean	SD
How much did you learn from this instructor?	4	4.2	1.0
Overall, how effective was the instruction you received from this instructor?	4	4.3	0.8

Note: Item 1 scored on a 5-point scale from 1 (Nothing) to 5 (A great deal). Item 2 was scored from 1 (Not effective at all) to 5 (Extremely effective). N = 13.

Student comments

“Yuan Chang was incredibly helpful in the class. His insights in class, his questions, and his willingness to help outside of class and direct students towards other helpful resources and papers all were remarkably interesting and engaging. It was a joy getting to learn with Yuan Chang.”

“YC is incredibly knowledgeable in the field and was able to add a lot of insight and knowledge into the discussions illuminating the class time.”

“His smile and joyful personality welcomes students into learning and approaching him”