

The Biological Sciences Graduate Office

Ratings of TA by Students

Winter 2010-11

TA Name: AARON OLSEN

Course: COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE - 2

Number of Students Responding: 6

***Mean \pm SD**

LABS

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • The TA had an excellent knowledge of the subject matter. | 3.6 \pm 1.14 |
| • The TA explained the lab very well. | 4.3 \pm 0.58 |
| • The TA provided good help during the lab. | 4.8 \pm 0.50 |
| • The TA answered questions fully and with good explanation | 4.6 \pm 0.55 |

Full-Length Lectures

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • The TA knew the material well. | 4.5 \pm 0.71 |
| • The material was well organized. | 4.5 \pm 0.71 |
| • The TA's delivery was clear and comprehensible. | 4.5 \pm 0.71 |
| • The TA explained the material at the right level for the audience. | 5.0 \pm |
| • The TA made good use of blackboard, overheads, etc. | 5.0 \pm |

Discussion Sections

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • The TA was good at clarifying material from the lectures. | 4.3 \pm 0.58 |
| • The TA answered questions well. | 4.7 \pm 0.58 |
| • The TA was good at getting a real discussion going. | 5.0 \pm |
| • The TA kept the interest level high. | 5.0 \pm 0.00 |

TA Prize

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Your TA is eligible to win a teaching prize. Do you want to nominate him/her for such a prize? | 2 votes |
|--|---------|

* 5 = Strongly Agree

15 Apr 2011

PSOM The University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine

Student Comments on TA performance

TA Name: AARON OLSEN

Course: CPNS 33100 Computational Neuroscience - 2

Quarter: Winter 2010-11

Please remember that the comments below have not been analyzed; they are raw data and should be treated as such. Even if the same comment appears several times, that does not mean that it represents the opinion of the class – it is likely the opinion of only the few that gave it.

Comments

Aaron is an extremely helpful TA. He was very effective at clarifying statistical concepts and computational methods for labs/problem sets. His feedback on problem sets and exams/quizzes were exceptionally valuable and helpful for subsequent assignments, and his answers to questions were always thorough and informed.

Although Aaron doesn't have extensive knowledge of the material covered in this class, as this isn't his particular field of study, and he has never taken this class before, he clearly put a ton of work into this class and did the best job that could have been asked of him. He provided extensive explanations of the homework and was very open to discussion about how he graded things. It became evident that he did not receive solutions to many (if any) of the problem sets assigned by the professors. This must have made his job much harder and time consuming (especially for the last problem set, which was much harder than the others) than it should have been.

Overall, Aaron was a very good TA. What he lacked in previous knowledge of the subject matter he certainly made up for in effort. It was clear that Aaron put a lot of time into working through the problem sets and looking over the material. He was an extremely thorough grader and always gave detailed feedback, which was greatly appreciated. While he didn't always have full grasp of the material or lots of background knowledge in the subject matter, he did his best to explain things and was very upfront about what he did and did not know. I was very satisfied with the job he did. My only real complaint is that he was too generous with the grades and made them very homogeneous, so it was difficult to really distinguish yourself in the grades, even if you clearly had a much better grasp of the material than most other students.

Whenever I asked Aaron a question, he always went above and beyond to answer my question.