

Fall 2015

Minds & Brains in America

Course Evaluations

DESCRIPTION:

- **Overview.** This panel provides a statistical snapshot of students' evaluations of the course. Section evaluations are specific to Q1.

- **Q1 Narrative.** Students' narrative evaluations of section instructor.

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Term	Course	Primary Dept	Primary Division	Enrolled:	352
Fall 2015	CGSC 135 01/HIST 118 01/HSHM 216 01/PSYC 135 01 - Minds and Brains in America	HSHM	Humanities	Responded:	316

Instructors

Cowles, Henry (P)

#	Question	Instructor	Course Avg/Std.Dev	Dept. Avg/Std.Dev	Division Avg/Std.Dev	School Avg/Std.Dev	Question Type
1	Was the relationship between the section and the course effective, and how could it be improved? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant as an instructor, and how might his/her teaching be improved?	Champagne, Anne	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Narrative
2	How would you summarize CGSC 135 01/HIST 118 01/HSHM 216 01/PSYC 135 01 for a fellow student? Would you recommend CGSC 135 01/HIST 118 01/HSHM 216 01/PSYC 135 01 to another student? Why or why not?	Cowles, Henry	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Narrative
3	Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken? <i>1-Much Less, 2-Less, 3-Same, 4-Greater, 5-Much Greater</i>	Cowles, Henry	2.6±0.6	2.8±0.8	3.2±0.9	3.1±1.0	
4	What is your overall assessment of this course? <i>1-Poor, 2-Below Average, 3-Good, 4-Very Good, 5-Excellent</i>	Cowles, Henry	4.4±0.7	4.3±0.9	4.1±0.9	3.8±1.0	
5	Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program? <i>1-Yes, 2-No</i>	Cowles, Henry	1.5±0.5	1.3±0.5	1.6±0.5	1.4±0.5	
6	Do you expect to use this class for credit toward the Yale College distributional requirements? <i>1-Yes, 2-No</i>	Cowles, Henry	1.6±0.5	1.6±0.5	1.6±0.5	1.6±0.5	

Q1. Was the relationship between the section and the course effective, and how could it be improved? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant as an instructor, and how might his/her teaching be improved?

Instructor: Champagne, Anne Marie

Responses for Instructor: 20

Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent

Answer

[924726](#)

An excellent TF! She is approachable and interested in the course content herself- it feels like you are working with a fellow (more knowledgeable and experienced) student: she

helps you make effective study guide notes in class and is always relating lecture themes to larger themes in the world and vice versa. The kind of TF where office hours turn into a genuinely interesting conversation that can cover way more than the scope of the class if you're such inclined. Cannot recommend taking her section enough.

[927094](#)

Anne Champagne's intellect and devotion were made apparent in our first section meeting. From Facebook groups to interactive class debates, she took advantage of every opportunity to make Minds & Brains a more closely knit and engaging class. Ms. Champagne's organization and energy definitely contributed to our section's understanding of the material. Her friendliness and openness made her fun to work with.

[932609](#)

Anne provided so much support for her students. She went above and beyond creating a Facebook page and bringing in snacks. You could tell that she genuinely cared about people doing well in the class and understanding the material.

[935476](#)

very serious, too serious, deviates from lecture

[938897](#)

Made a Facebook group for our section. I know that she wished our class had been a bit more willing to engage in outside of class discussion via Facebook, but I enjoyed section and the activities helped me to better grasp the material.

[938901](#)

Anne Marie was a great TA! Our sections were really great, and she reviewed a lot of material in fun, interesting, and effective activities. My only complaint would be that her office hours were somewhat inconveniently located and timed. I liked that she created a Facebook group for our section, although I wish it had been used more.

[942224](#)

Anne Marie was great. She was very helpful and I really liked how our section functioned. Nothing bad to say at all; one of the best TAs I've ever had (and I'm an old senior!)

[942480](#)

Section was good! My section especially was very participatory even though it was very early in the morning. My TA also was very organized and helped us organize the material easily.

[943235](#)

Anne Marie was a spectacular TA! She was great at facilitating conversation and made sure that we understood both the lectures and the readings for each week.

[947629](#)

I thought section was great. I think having pretty structured activities and topics really facilitated discussion and thought about the readings. I also think that though readings didn't come up too much in lecture, my TA and the activities for section really managed to tie the readings to themes in lecture.

[950981](#)

Anne Marie was great at leading section. I truly enjoyed our discussions and the various activities (especially debates and small groups) used to work through the material. I appreciate that the notes that were made about the discussions on the board were photographed and distributed to the class, so that we could concentrate on discussion rather than note taking during section. I also am grateful for the thorough feedback we received on our blog posts and midterm exams. I wouldn't change a thing about section: our discussions both ensured that we covered content and had a chance to delve into

	various opinions and interpretations of the material, which enriched understanding of the issues relevant in both historical and present day contexts.
953851	Wonderful teaching! Anne Marie was super organized, wrote all over the boards with questions, section outlines, and charts to take notes on during discussion. She posed thoughtful questions that facilitated discussion well. Section felt very much so like a real seminar course.
956954	Anne Marie was a great TF who was really organized in section to try to cover as much ground as we could. She listened to all of comments to best synthesize the readings each week and was always open to our different perspectives. I always felt comfortable presenting an idea to the group. I appreciated the time she took to prepare before each section.
964326	In section we largely discussed the week's readings, but also touched on the week' lecture topics. I thought the discussion of readings was largely effective and helpful, and the organized activities usually helped to facilitate discussion. Anne Marie was very engaged and helped facilitate meaningful discussion through questions and activities.
969063	Anne Marie went above and beyond her TF duties. She created a Facebook page for our section in which she posted pictures of the whiteboard notes she took during section. She was very available via email and although I never met with her in person, she was very responsive to requests for that as well. She led section well, and was very positive and complimentary whenever a student made a good comment in class.
983531	Anne Marie was a fantastic TF! She was accommodating when I was sick and had to miss section, and she always led engaging sections.
983537	Anne Marie was a very good teaching fellow. Although the class was disorganized, she tried to provide her students with as much information as possible. She was happy to meet with students outside of class and talk about the material.
983693	Section was useful in understanding key ideas in lecture and in the readings, but it always felt pretty rushed. I wish there was additional time to discuss the (many pages of) reading that we had each week. Regardless, Anne was a great TA who wanted to help all her students learn. I would rate her very highly.
991309	Anne Marie was very knowledgeable and organized. Sometimes the discussions veered into very advanced concepts that as a freshman, non-psych-major, it was difficult to follow. Also a very difficult grader.
991644	Anne Marie was a very good section leader. I think the best thing she did was help create a comfortable environment in which everyone felt like he/she could speak. I did not feel like section did a great job of connecting material from the class, and I definitely would have like to see Thursday lecture material appear in section, though I do not believe that this was Anne Marie's fault, since I am pretty sure that she was following section plans given to her by Professor Cowles, since I know other TAs did the exact same activities.