

Course Evaluations and Teaching Experience

Lauren C. Konken

Princeton University

Preceptor, 2018 - 2020

- POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Fall 2019)
- SOC207: Poverty in America (Fall 2019)
- POL245: Visualizing Data, Freshman Scholars Institute (Summer 2019)
- POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Fall 2018)

Course evaluation average: 4.233/5

McGill University

Teaching Assistant, 2014 - 2016

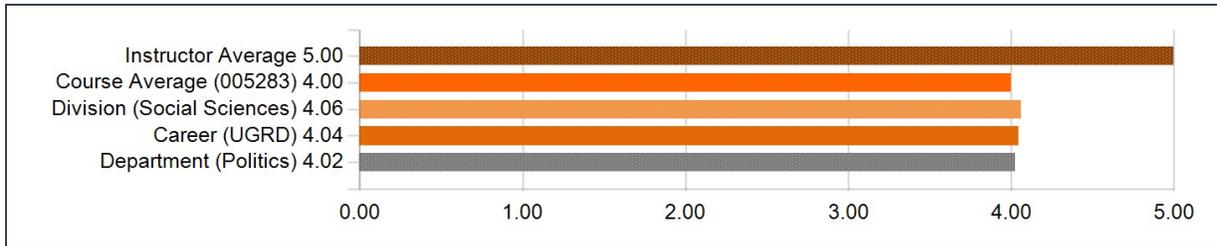
- POLI 441: IPE: Trade (Winter 2016)
- POLI 445: International Monetary Relations (Fall 2015)
- POLI 243: International Politics of Economic Relations (Winter 2015)
- POLI 244: International Politics: State Behaviour (Fall 2014)

Course evaluation average: 4.479/5

POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Princeton University, Fall 2020)
Section P01 - L. Konken (14 students total, 11 responses to evaluations)

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	11	100%
Very Good	4	0	0%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

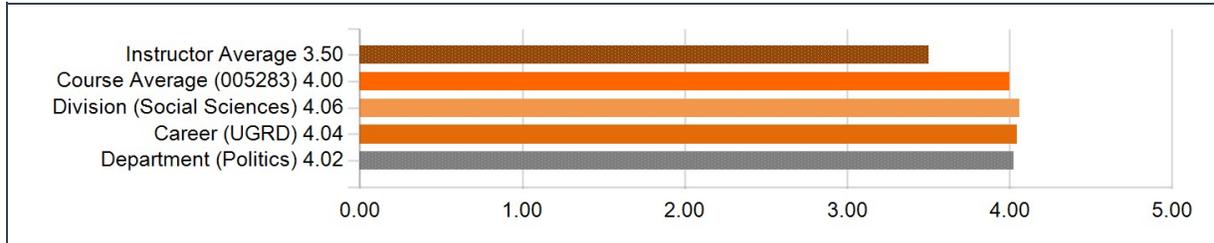
Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Precept was amazing! Lauren always went out of her way to make sure we understood the concepts, knew the readings, and even brought candy! Definitely encouraged student participation which was nice, and she was always available if we needed her.
Preceptor was very knowledgeable and helpful with clarifying readings and expectations for papers.
The precepts were very helpful. We took part in different activities that really helped solidify our understanding of the readings and lectures.
Lauren ran the best precept ever. I looked forward to it every week!
The precepts were super helpful in clarifying readings and clear concepts. Lauren was awesome and really helped simplify complicated material
They were always nice to look forward to. Great conversation but this really depends on who you have in precept.
Lauren was so helpful and knowledgeable. She helped us both with understanding and connecting the course material and with real world applications of this material.
Lauren is SO SO SO knowledgeable its insane and she did a great job making it clear what we should take away from each reading. Enjoyed the mini debates// war games we would play.
Lauren was great! Super knowledgeable and capable and managed the class well.
Lauren is very well informed and fair.

POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Princeton University, Fall 2020)
Section P04 - L. Konken (10 students total, 4 responses to evaluations)

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	0	0%
Very Good	4	2	50%
Good	3	2	50%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

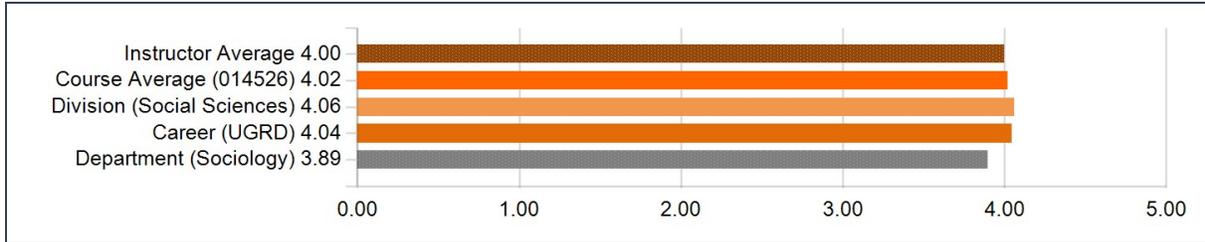
Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Lauren is a great preceptor, really helps you grasp the concepts in an easier way than simply listening to lecture.
The precepts clarified some information from the readings, but they could have not existed and the class would have been the same. Lauren is very nice and she tried, but no one gave any effort.

SOC 207: Poverty in America (Princeton University, Fall 2020)
Section P13 - L. Konken (11 students, 7 responses to evaluations)

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	4	57%
Very Good	4	1	14%
Good	3	1	14%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	1	14%

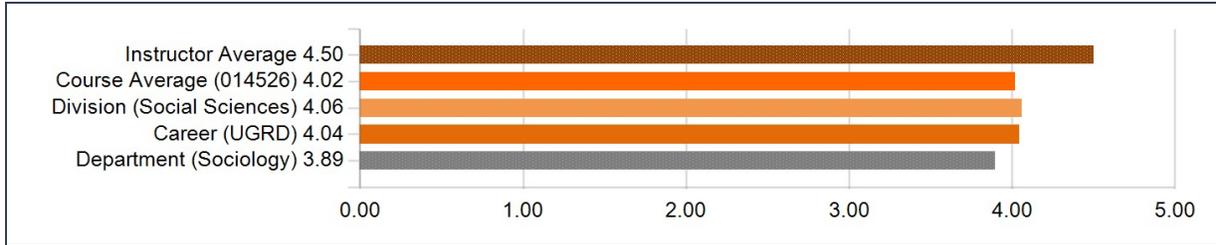
Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Did a great job leading precept discussion each week and checking in on people with regards to their fieldwork if they needed it. Was always available for questions via office hours or emails.
I did not enjoy precept as much as I enjoyed lectures. Perhaps it was just a different attitude that the preceptor held compared to Professor Desmond but it wasn't as engaging or productive.
The precept was a great place for discussion and helped my understanding. They helped with the material and tased good questions. They were responsive to students well.
My precept really helped me understand lecture material and prepared me for fieldwork.
Precepts were useful, but I felt like they weren't long enough to cover everything I wanted to talk about.

SOC 207: Poverty in America (Princeton University, Fall 2020)
Section P14 - L. Konken (11 students total, 8 responses to evaluations)

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	5	63%
Very Good	4	2	25%
Good	3	1	13%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

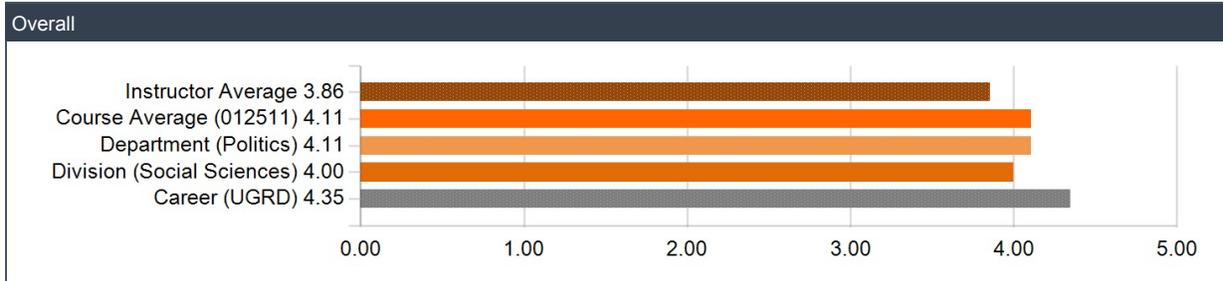
Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Great
Lauren was great, she was super helpful with giving literature and resources for our final fieldwork project.
I really enjoyed the precept and it really helped in clarifying what the main parts of the readings were. I felt that the progression of difficulty really pushed me as a student to made connections across the readings. In other words, I liked how the beginning of the semester started off by just reviewing content and by the end of the semester we started talking more about the connections between readings and how that connects to our fieldwork.
Lauren was clearly very dedicated and had a lot of relevant knowledge as a preceptor. She made sure we understood the material/readings, and was always very timely with answering questions and providing feedback.
Lauren is super kind and thoughtful! She is clearly extremely logical and always willing to go the extra step to help students.
She's amazing! I'm so lucky that she spent her time precepting for us. She's kind, patient, and knew how to engage the class.

POL245: Visualizing Data (Princeton University, Summer 2019)
Section P01 - L. Konken (16 students, 7 responses to evaluations)

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	2	29%
Very Good	4	3	43%
Good	3	1	14%
Fair	2	1	14%
Poor	1	0	0%

Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

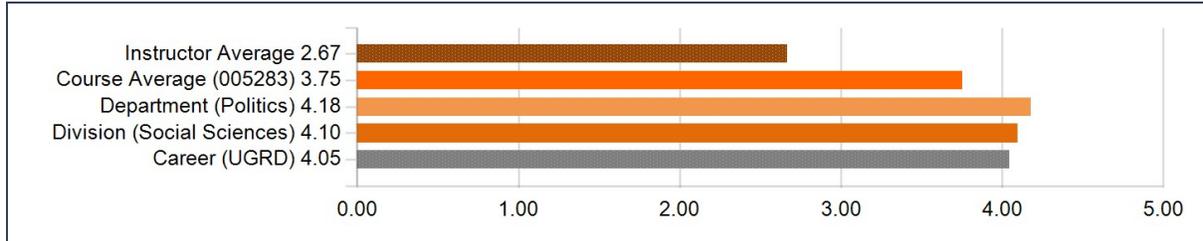
Comments
Lauren was a great preceptor and helped us understand and critically think about the material ahead of us. Although she moved too fast at times, she provided clear and distinct lessons on data interpretation, actively encouraged participation through good questions, and provided valuable context to better understand the precept materials.
Lauren was clear in her instruction and very helpful whenever someone needed help. I just found myself struggling to keep up with her when coding because she types really quickly, and I along others in the class often found ourselves asking her to scroll back up.
The precepts were helpful and provided useful direction to how I should go by doing my problem sets. Also, the preceptor answered every question clearly and even expanded the answer beyond the necessary to give us as much knowledge as possible. The precepts as give me examples to refer to when I needed help so I would say they were extremely important.
Precepts for POL 245 were very helpful as they usually correlated with that week's problem set. Lauren was a great preceptor and she was always willing to pose and answer questions that helped me understand the course material. I do wish that the precept was longer though, as I ended up staying after class was over to catch all of the material anyways.
They were good but I felt like it was just someone talking at us and us copying the code rather than us learning
The precepts were good for building confidence for coding. The preceptor was extremely proactive with our questions and opinions. The only problem was that the precepts were extremely fast paced.
The Precepts were helpful when doing the problem sets. I thought my preceptor was nice and helpful. However, I felt that sometimes precept was too fast for me to copy down what was being coded and also understadnw aht was going on.

POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Princeton University, Fall 2018)

Section P03 - L. Konken (11 students total, 3 responses to evaluations)

NOTE: Due to a family medical emergency, I left Princeton halfway through the semester and had another graduate student take over my position.

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

1. I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	0	0%
Very Good	4	1	33%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	2	67%
Poor	1	0	0%

Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Lauren left halfway through the year. Precepts can feel like pulling teeth tbh because people weren't super into the conversation.
She left halfway through the semester.

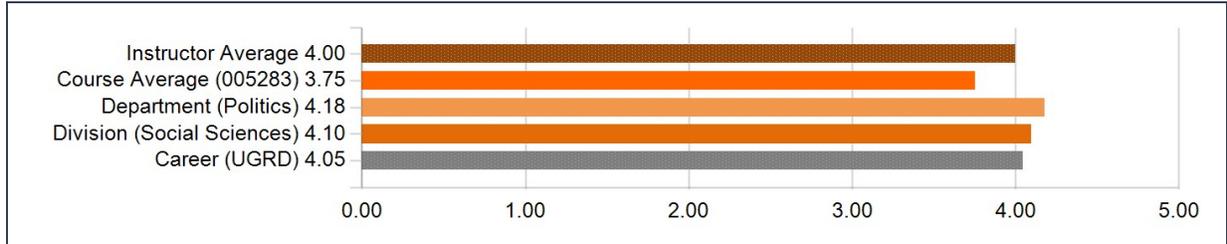
POL240/WWS312: International Relations (Princeton University, Fall 2018)

Section P04 - L. Konken (12 students total, 4 responses to evaluations)

NOTE: Due to a family medical emergency, I left Princeton halfway through the semester and had another graduate student take over my position.

Instructor Questions - Score Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:



Instructor Questions - Frequency Analysis

I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:

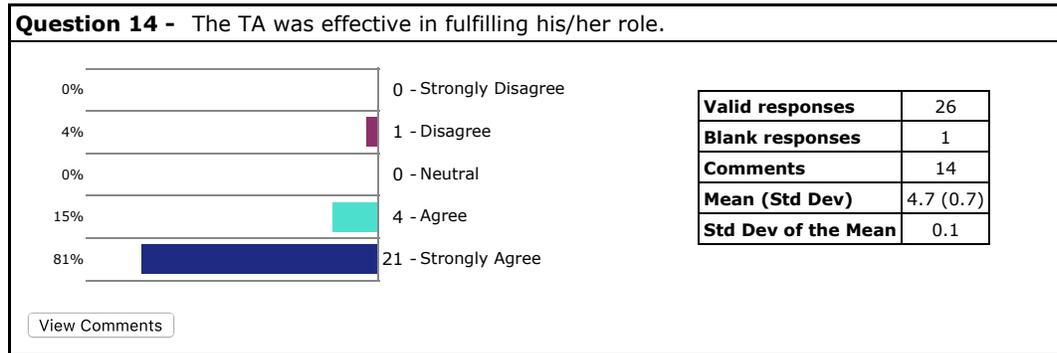
1. I think that the overall quality of the precepts was:			
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	0	0%
Very Good	4	4	100%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Poor	1	0	0%

Precepts - Please comment on the quality of the precepts. How did they contribute to your learning in the course? To what extent did the preceptor raise challenging questions, help clarify course material, and encourage broad student participation? Was the preceptor responsive to students' questions, opinions, and criticism?

Comments
Lauren is so smart. She was able to distill the past lecture into reasonable sized chunks. She explained things well and was happy to take questions and comments on any of the material. Her comments were helpful and helped my writing skills grow.
Lauren's precept was engaging and helped us all to interact with the material. It was a shame that she had to leave mid-semester.
Lauren was an excellent preceptor, very knowledgeable about the topic and generally pretty good at clarifying the material that we went over in lecture. Sometimes we would not get to everything in precept, but generally it went well.
The precepts complemented my understanding of the course material and provided useful, comprehensive insights

POLI 441: International Political Economy: Trade (McGill University, Winter 2016)

L. Konken (87 students total, 27 course evaluations)



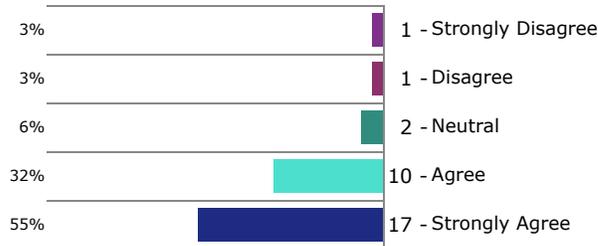
Comments for question 14 : The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.

1. Submission #1259438: A TA as incredible as the professor. My comments about Prof Pelc also go for Lauren as well: engaging, accessible, always able to help every student's understanding in conference and in her office hours.
2. Submission #1262262: One of the best TAs ive ever had
3. Submission #1262952: Great T.A., very knowledgeable and helpful, always answers emails in detail (actually the most helpful T.A. I've had at McGill)
4. Submission #1263777: Fantastic TA, very intelligent, friendly and approachable. Always available to answer questions and provide further clarification.
5. Submission #1263791: Lauren is one of the most competent people I have ever met at mcgill. She's precisely what this world needs to put chauvinists and misogynists in Academia in their place. Do not let her go without telling her that she made this uni better for the students she taught.
6. Submission #1268998: Loved her! Available, charismatic, knowledgeable, engaging, good at pedagogy, great guidance for assignments.
7. Submission #1270494: Without Lauren, I don't think that I would fully understand a lot of the material provided. The most amazing TA I have ever had at McGill. Going to conference I was actually able to learn so much, it was as if it was another lesson. She is so kind and caring and approachable. I can go on and on. Very lucky that I was able to have her as a TA or I don't think that I would be able to succeed as I did.
8. Submission #1270877: best TA, really knowledgeable
9. Submission #1270953: Very helpful and answers questions concisely without confusing anyone.
10. Submission #1271828: Great TA her conferences were extremely helpful and she was always prepared. She made the learning environment very comfortable; I'm a shy person but never felt anxious about participating. She knows her stuff and is a really great teacher.
11. Submission #1279566: Best TA I've ever had here. Explained things in conference well (and differently than the instructor to make sure you actually understood, rather than just repeating stuff), ran conferences effectively, always answered emails.
12. Submission #1279900: One the best TA's I've had in my four years at McGill.
13. Submission #1282298: In all my years at McGill, Lauren is by far the best TA I've ever had. She is available for students to understand how could they improve themselves for the course. She is the only TA I've seen pulling comprehensive reviews before exams that are actually useful and motivating. Going to conference with her never felt it was boring because she would find ways to explain the materials and tie it with the readings in order to make us fully understand what was going on during the class.
14. Submission #1285247: Lauren was really helpful in terms of clarifying course content, especially when it came to understanding the readings better. She also encourages a lot of class participation instead of just feeding us the answers. Lauren gave us great study tips and feedback, and was extremely approachable during office hours. I really appreciated the conference she held for the final review, as it gave us a quick oversight into all the key concepts and terms.

POLI 445: International Monetary Relations (McGill University, Fall 2015)

L. Konken (86 students total, 31 course evaluations)

Question 14 - The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.



Valid responses	31
Blank responses	0
Comments	12
Mean (Std Dev)	4.3 (1.0)
Std Dev of the Mean	0.2

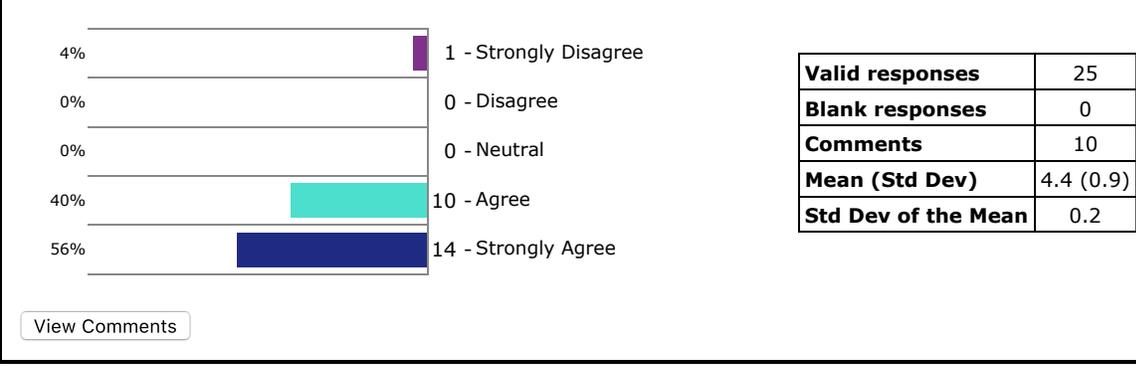
[View Comments](#)

Comments for question 14 : The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.

1. Submission #1214250: Very intimidating
2. Submission #1214765: Very knowledgeable TA. I learned a lot and was constantly challenged to improve.
3. Submission #1216510: Best TA I have had at McGill so far organized, knows the material well and able to answer questions effectively
4. Submission #1220663: In conferences we mostly covered the readings. I would have rather concentrated on class material. It would have been more helpful to go over class material in order to better understand it instead of just summarizing the readings. Also, this TA graded very harshly (the averages of both TA's were very different Feng's average was significantly higher than Lauren's average). I believe both TA's should grade the same way so that some students are not disadvantaged.
5. Submission #1220806: Lauren turned up to conferences organized and prepared to help her students. Moreover, she seemed like she genuinely cared about helping everyone. She stands out for all the right reasons.
6. Submission #1228672: She is really smart and organized. Taught the conference really well, was very available for help outside conference. Knew the course information really well. She helped a lot outside of class. Fantastic teacher.
7. Submission #1228773: Lauren has gone above and beyond her role as TA. Her conferences helped me understand the course, the techniques she gave us to study and the reading summaries we went through were crucial to my grade in this course. Truly an amazing TA that wants her students to succeed
8. Submission #1230450: Lauren is quite possibly the best TA I've had at McGill. Her knowledge of the material is incredible and she found diverse ways to engage otherwise apathetic students. I can't recommend her enough.
9. Submission #1235834: I really liked the focus on the readings. That was very helpful. Also, the exam review sessions were hugely helpful.
10. Submission #1239921: Sometimes Lauren talked quite fast during the conferences and I could not always follow.
11. Submission #1242271: Lauren is the most incredible TA a student could have. Any student of hers recognizes that she puts in 200% effort into learning the course material and being able to distill it and explain it in conference as thoroughly as could be desired. Lauren also structures and organizes conference in an way that is very student-oriented. She was very creative in changing the dynamics of conference to what would best suit the students. Lauren is also very responsive to emails. She will make a fantastic professor someday, I am sure of it. Too bad I will most likely have completed all my studies before I can take a course with her!
12. Submission #1242621: Always available for questions.. I really liked the investment simulation.

POLI 243: International Politics of Economic Relations (McGill University, Winter 2015)
L. Konken (80 students total, 25 course evaluations)

Question 14 - The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.



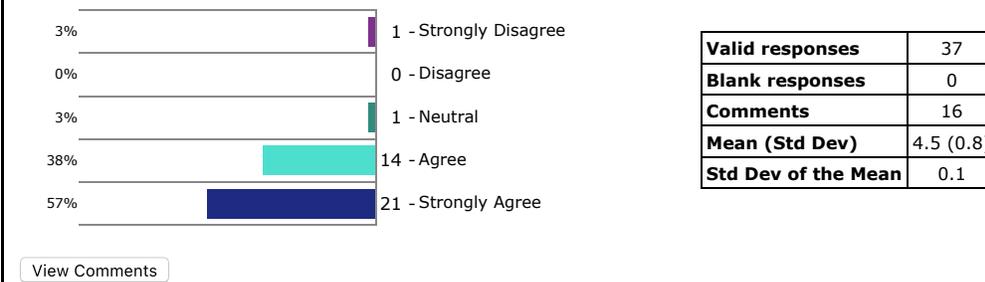
Comments for question 14 : The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.

1. Submission #1155360: She wasn't always very clear in her explanation and did not foster conference discussions.
2. Submission #1156242: Very clear, awesome TA
3. Submission #1164834: Lauren was really nice but she speaks way to quickly when she explains something and it looks like she is only reciting her lesson by heart
4. Submission #1165400: She was very accessible via email and office hours. She also led effective conference sessions. She focused on material that would be on the exams to best prepare her students.
5. Submission #1166968: Lauren is honestly the best TA I had so far at McGill. Although a tough grader, she knows what she is talking about, she is very enthusiastic and very helpful.
6. Submission #1170270: TA Lauren was excellent in her role. She was of great help and her conferences were always encouraging.
7. Submission #1171481: 20/10, best T.A. I have had so far. Of huge help during conferences and for preparing for exams. Would love to have her as a prof one day. Would recommend. Keep it up!
8. Submission #1171612: she was very helpful
9. Submission #1177794: Great TA! The only guidance and reassurance I felt was thanks to her!
10. Submission #1181828: SHE WAS AMAZING! Gave us great strategies to answer exam questions.

POLI 244: International Politics: State Behaviour (McGill University, Fall 2014)

L. Konken (63 students total, 37 course evaluations)

Question 14 - The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.



Comments for question 14 : The TA was effective in fulfilling his/her role.

1. Submission #1093169: very nice and patient manner. good at explaining the material
2. Submission #1093461: One of the best TAs our there! She is extremely intelligent and really approachable. She knows her stuff about the course and breaks it down really easily and allows students to really understand the lecture material. She makes a really comfortable atmosphere in which students are free to ask questions and i actually enjoy attending this conference. Amazing!!!!
3. Submission #1095528: Very helpful and approachable.
4. Submission #1099675: SHES AN AWESOME TA THANK YOU SO MUCH
5. Submission #1108393: Ms Konken covered material in a fairly quick manner, but was always willing to take questions and go over it again. She was available outside of conference hour and helped give advice for doing readings and paper writing.
6. Submission #1111374: Très bienveillante et beaucoup de savoir qu'elle su mettre au service de ses élèves.
7. Submission #1115643: She was extremely helpful in answering all questions and enabling us to fully understand concepts.
8. Submission #1117125: Lauren was a really good TA. She always had a good attitude, knew the material, and was able to answer questions about the technical aspects of the class. She goes above and beyond to help students out and she's really approachable.
9. Submission #1120384: Lauren did a really good job at making sure that people understood the concepts learned in class. She was also made sure she was available to help students. I also really appreciated that she held a review session a few days before our exam.
10. Submission #1125262: Lauren is an excellent TA! The best one I had of any of my courses, was very effective and clear in her teaching! Also really nice and always answers questions when I had them.
11. Submission #1128891: I feel like she did I great job at explained and answering our questions. However, she got very familiar with some students and didn't know the names of others. I know that some go to office hours continuously and get more familiar with their TA's, but people who show up for conferences every week should be equally known.
12. Submission #1128977: Lauren is amazing! She always knew how to answer questions in conferences and never let the conversation stop. I love how you could just tell that she knew all the material. She was always available to answer questions and was patient with everyone. Every time I sent her a email, I received an answer within 6 minutes. Lauren even set up a review session prior to the final exam.
13. Submission #1129219: When I asked her for help through email, she was very quick at responding and helping out.
14. Submission #1129975: Lauren was very engaging and helpful her conferences always helped to clarify material and address any sources of confusion.
15. Submission #1130429: Clear and effective, open to questions and clarification.
16. Submission #1131769: I really liked the way these conferences were structured, and I think that Ms. Konken was very good at clarifying any questions we had about the lectures and the readings. She was also always available for help, and I really appreciated that she offered help with citations and essay writing that I'm not sure the other TAs did. Those both helped a lot. Thank you for a great semester!