

Ryan Weldzius
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Department of Political Science

Teaching Evaluations

While completing my Ph.D. at UCLA I acted as a teaching assistant for 14 upper division courses in international relations and comparative politics. I worked extensively with Prof. Ronald Rogowski on the syllabi for the undergraduate and graduate courses on international political economy (my updated versions available upon request). Below I include a summary from undergraduate students' evaluations followed by a sample of unedited comments. Quantitative scores reflect average student evaluations of my overall teaching abilities in the course on a nine-point scale (9=Highest; 1=Lowest). All evaluations available upon request.

Summary of Evaluations:

Term	Course No.	Course Title	Response/Total	Mean Score
As Lead Instructor				
2014-Summer	IASTD 160	Political Economy of European Integration	8/11	8.83
As Teaching Fellow				
2018-Spring	PS 124	International Political Economy	24/56	8.78
2018-Winter	PS 125	The Nuclear Age in World Politics	41/79	8.53
2017-Fall	PS 120	International Relations of the U.S.	45/60	8.49
2017-Spring	PS 124	International Political Economy	15/48	8.66
2017-Winter	PS 134	U.S. Foreign Policy Decision Making	15/51	8.83
2016-Fall	PS 120	International Relations of the U.S.	33/57	8.86
2016-Spring	PS 168	Comparative Political Analysis	15/48	8.58
2016-Winter	PS 124	International Political Economy	31/54	8.93
2015-Fall	PS 120	International Relations of the U.S.	27/60	8.63
2015-Spring	PS 124	International Political Economy	15/45	8.24
2015-Winter	PS 120	International Relations of the U.S.	23/61	8.70
2014-Fall	PS 120	International Relations of the U.S.	19/62	8.37
2014-Spring	PS 168	Comparative Political Analysis	13/47	8.73
2014-Winter	PS 124	International Political Economy	28/56	8.50

Department Codes: IASTD=International Area Studies; PS= Political Science

Comments:

Select unedited comments undergraduate students included in the online evaluations.

- “Wouldn’t have survived this class without Ryan. He was incredibly well-informed on the topic of international economics, was organized, and prepared to answer questions. Most importantly, he genuinely cared about whether or not his class understood the material and gave us tools to succeed.”
- “Strengths: Presentations, well versed, excellent communication, enthusiastic, friendly and encouraging.”
- “I thoroughly enjoyed having Ryan as a TA! I had no background in economics whatsoever so I found the course pretty challenging; however, I definitely did a lot better than I expected

to on my quizzes and midterm. I feel like that Ryan explains things very clearly and is a big reason why I was able to get through the course. Probably my favorite TA in my four years here.”

- “Ryan is by far the best TA I have had at UCLA. Without his ability to convey complex ideas in simpler forms, I would not be able to understand half of what this class had to offer. He’s extremely personable and has an incredible ability to teach.”
- “Ryan is the best TA I have had at UCLA. He is incredibly knowledgeable on the course, explains the topics in much more digestible ways than the lecture, providing further analysis and understanding of the themes and materials. He is very approachable, flexible and helpful. He is willing to meet not only to talk about the course but about career plans, and larger research projects as well.”
- “Ryan is by far one of the best poli sci TAs. He knows his stuff and he’s able to help us make sense of things. His lecture presentations are also very clear and organized. Wish he could’ve lectured more. It was very nice of him to add supplemental resources at the end of every week.”
- “Having Ryan as a TA made this class the most beneficial it could be for me and allowed me to fully understand the topics. He was incredibly knowledgeable about the material while being able to explain it clearly to those who had no background in the subject. He provided multiple outside resources for us to further our understanding of the material and actually made a lot of the material interesting and relevant, where I enjoyed going to section. He made himself incredibly available to us, even opening up office hours early for me to better accommodate my class schedule. He is by far one of the the best TAs I have had at UCLA.”
- “I want to take this opportunity to compliment you on your teaching for this class. At first I wasn’t so sure if International Political Economy was something for me. I was scared by other people saying the workload was very high. I knew that I knew a lot about the subject but lacked a more general understanding so I took the course anyway. Your teaching has helped me very much. You were always very well prepared and very knowledgeable. You have a great talent at explaining complicated stuff in easy to understand terms. Some people are meant to teach and I think you’re one of them. ”
- “Ryan is probably one of the best teaching assistants in the Political Science department. This is a great supplemental resource to the course because he goes through tough concepts in a very simple, organized way. Discussions are actually informative and fun which is not the norm. This is a reflection of his teaching style, a relaxed environment where there is actual dialogue, not just the TA talking. Overall great.”
- “Ryan was the best TA I’ve ever had at UCLA. He was so knowledgeable and presented the information so well. I understood more from section than class. Ryan was also a good resource for discussing things outside of academics and was willing to give me career advice and insight into grad school. I know he’s going to do big things. I’ll be checking on linkedin!”
- “One of the best TA’s I’ve had at UCLA. He brings in current events to apply to things we learn from lecture, which makes the material much more interesting, and he genuinely cares about his students.”
- “Best TA I’ve had. WELDZIUS had been the TA of the same course for Pro. Rogowski before and it shows. His mastery of the subject, section integration, and scope are unparalleled. He was able to lead extremely productive session reviews on the subject he felt we would struggle with, based on his previous experience and gave great advice on how to prepare

and do well in the class. Knowledgeable, warm, patient, and professional, I find his session not only complementary but an integral part of the course. When Prof is absent due to the conference, this TA jumped in and held the lecture effortlessly, while sharing his own current research related to the topics. In the main lectures, TA sits right next to the professor and he often participates and adds to the main lectures. I think this high-quality TA engagement is also the product of A professor and his own fellow Ph.D. student who taught the course together, with a deep understanding of student's needs. Compared to some previous bad TAs, I always felt like they were air-dropped into the class without previous working with the professor, lacking comprehensive understanding, or plans for the sessions. Ideally, this should be how UCLA assign TAs when possible, a continuous pairing of same professor and his fellow graduate whenever possible.”