

**Instructional Assistant Student Evaluation of Teaching for Duong Thi Thuy Pham
Department of Political Science**

POLI 11D - Intro/Poli Sci:Compar Politics (Desposato, Scott)
Fall 2025

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 24
Number of Students Enrolled: 230

1. The Instructional Assistant used instructional methods in section and/or office hours that helped me learn and engage with the course material.

20 (83.3%): Strongly Agree
4 (16.7%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

2. The sections led by this Instructional Assistant were well-coordinated with other components of this class (e.g., lecture, lab, assignments, etc.).

21 (87.5%): Strongly Agree
3 (12.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

3. The Instructional Assistant communicated effectively.

19 (79.2%): Strongly Agree
5 (20.8%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

4. The Instructional Assistant provided constructive feedback on my work.

13 (54.2%):	Strongly Agree
9 (37.5%):	Agree
1 (4.2%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
1 (4.2%):	Not Applicable

5. The Instructional Assistant created a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

19 (79.2%):	Strongly Agree
5 (20.8%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

6. The Instructional Assistant generally began and ended section/lab/office hours on time.

22 (91.7%):	Strongly Agree
2 (8.3%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

7. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that created or interfered with a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

- Asked students how they were, how they felt about upcoming and past tests, and what they would like to focus on
- Duong has created a supportive environment since the first day of section. She has always felt me feel comfortable enough to ask questions and go to her for help or support in the course.
- Duong was very kind and vocal about creating a comfortable environment, never once made me uncomfortable.
- Emphasized group work a lot which I really enjoyed, very interactive with students which makes the lectures way more engaging, and has thought-provoking questions that makes me think deeper about the material learned.
- Facilitated discussions and learning with peers in small groups. Helped with introductions and activities that made it super easy to reach out for help if needed, and participate in section.
- Great teaching style, went over everything effectively, very engaging lectures.
- Her supportive and nice personality created a welcoming environment for us.

- made sure that everyone got to participate. Specified that if we didn't want to ask a question in class, we could email her. Overall, I think she made for a friendly and inclusive learning environment.
- Made us partner up all the time which was very good to feel welcoming.
- My TA was extremely welcoming and I particularly liked how my TA would ask us prompts, create games, and stimulate group discussions. This made it seem like they really wanted us to engage with the material and our classmates to listen to different perspectives and ideas.
- She was extremely communicative and fostered an open environment which was very welcoming and friendly
- They were always really nice and had high energy which just gave the class a more fun vibe and they brought candy on halloween for the section which was really nice.
- Very energetic and engaging to be around. The structure of the course's discussion was always so structured and simplified for a stronger understanding. Best TA for strong engagement!
- Very friendly and approachable, encouraged conversation and engagement but never felt forced.
- Welcomed questions and discussions

8. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that particularly helped you to learn the material and/or encouraged you to feel that you could succeed in the course.

- Duong is great at condensing the lecture slides and makes them very easy to understand. Also, Duong made me feel confident for my second midterm after not getting the best score on the first one.
- Everything about the section made me feel more confident in the material the class gave us. The TA was extremely organized with overviews of the lectures and readings as well as discussions and questions that prompted the students to think about the material and recall what we had learned.
- Excellent slides, engaged with students (kahoots, discussions,etc)
- Helpful outside examples, able to connect with my peers more from discussion, and I often participated to be more engaged.
- I think the games we played that were on topic to things we were learning.
- Presentations during section really honed in on key terms and ideas that were present on exams. Gave good feedback on exams after being graded, was available during office hours, always very willing to help. Genuine interest in helping students.
- She would use examples from real life and apply them to what we are learning.
- Slides were very clear and went through content in an approachable way. Was also very quick with responding to emails and following up on my concerns.
- The definitions provided and interactive structure of the class.
- The discussion jigsaws gave me an opportunity to express my understanding with my peers, while also listening to their thoughts on the material as well. If there was any confusion, Duong

would write it down to reflect on it before ending our section to thoroughly explain the concept to prevent further confusion.

- The interactive activities, such as kahoots or think-tank/word bubble activities, helped me to practice defining certain terms and understand the course materials better.
- The midterm review sessions and the sections as a whole were extremely helpful with breaking down the dense and longer course materials from the lectures and readings
- The quiz activities and review slides
- The slides and games we played were very helpful. Discussions in general helped me further understand the material from lecture.
- They were really good at breaking down the hard parts from lecture into really simple pieces, I use my notes from discussion more than lecture to study because they are really good at teaching the harder stuff in an easy to understand way.
- Was so engaged with the coursework and passionate

9. Please offer constructive suggestions that might help the Instructional Assistant improve their contribution to your learning of the course material.

- don't know
- Give out more exam reviews.
- I don't have any suggestions. Duong is great at using different ways to help me learn (group discussions, midterm reviews, simulations, etc).
- I think they did a great job, maybe focus on how to improve our writing/what you are looking for. I know this isn't an English class, but having a format is good to know.
- Maximize a time for discussions because there would be times we'd have something to cover on the agenda but our discussion would take too much of learning time.
- Maybe go over the most important aspects of the readings.
- Maybe having section slides that incorporate all of the main ideas (even if they aren't all able to be addressed during section time)
- No opinion
- Perhaps going through the readings more.

10. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with this Instructional Assistant?

- Duong made it very clear they loved teaching political science, while also including personal insight or examples going on in the real world to further emphasize the importance and how governments could collapse if certain things aren't done to prevent it. They were so very kind, and I enjoyed attending section because they were passionate about the material.
- Great experience in their class.

- I wish the discussion sections were longer with Duong!! I enjoy them as a TA, very helpful and always ready to clarify a misunderstanding.
- No opinion
- They were great, genuinely the best TA I have ever gotten to learn from. 11/10 :)
- Very kind, respectful and helpful in a timely manner. Made content way more engaging and easier to digest.
- You weren't my TA, but I used your slides to study and appreciate your help during review sessions.

11. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?

19 (52.8%):	Major/Program Requirement
2 (5.6%):	Minor
3 (8.3%):	College General Education
1 (2.8%):	Elective
10 (27.8%):	Interest
0 (0.0%):	American History and Institutions (AHI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Undergraduate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Requirement (DEI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement (JTCCER)
1 (2.8%):	Graduate Program Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Other

12. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **IN THE SECTION?**

12 (50.0%):	Frequently
8 (33.3%):	Sometimes
2 (8.3%):	Seldom
1 (4.2%):	Never
1 (4.2%):	Not Applicable

13. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **DURING OFFICE HOURS** ?

0 (0.0%):	Frequently
2 (8.3%):	Sometimes
4 (16.7%):	Seldom
14 (58.3%):	Never
4 (16.7%):	Not Applicable

14. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA EMAIL**?

4 (16.7%):	Frequently
7 (29.2%):	Sometimes
5 (20.8%):	Seldom
5 (20.8%):	Never
3 (12.5%):	Not Applicable

15. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA THE COURSE DISCUSSION BOARD**?

1 (4.2%):	Frequently
5 (20.8%):	Sometimes
2 (8.3%):	Seldom
10 (41.7%):	Never
6 (25.0%):	Not Applicable

16. How often did you receive feedback from this instructional assistant on assignments/exams/papers?

12 (50.0%):	Frequently
6 (25.0%):	Sometimes
1 (4.2%):	Seldom
1 (4.2%):	Never
4 (16.7%):	Not Applicable

The data and comments provided in this report are unfiltered and unedited, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, the teaching department, Academic Affairs, or UC San Diego. Responses and comments are made available without auditing or editing, and they may not be modified or deleted, to ensure that each evaluator has an opportunity to express their opinion.

Confidential support for reading and interpreting student feedback is available through the Teaching and Learning Commons. [Click here](#) to schedule a one-on-one consultation, or email engagedteaching@ucsd.edu.

If you feel that comments constitute harassment or discrimination, then please file a report with the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD). Because these comments are provided anonymously, it is unlikely that any action can be taken. However, OPHD will record and review these reports in order to assess whether SET comments are a cause for concern.