

**Student IA Evaluation for Pietro Emilio Spini
Department of Economics**ECON 120B - Econometrics B (O, Mun Pyung)
Spring 2018**Number of Evaluations Submitted: 19
Number of Students Enrolled: 69**

1. The Instructional Assistant graded fairly and consistently.

12 (63.2%):	Strongly Agree
6 (31.6%):	Agree
1 (5.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

2. I went to the Instructional Assistant's office hours.

7 (36.8%):	Yes
11 (57.9%):	No
1 (5.3%):	Not Applicable

3. The Instructional Assistant's assistance during office hours was well-informed, clearly presented and valuable.

6 (31.6%):	Strongly Agree
1 (5.3%):	Agree
2 (10.5%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
10 (52.6%):	Not Applicable

4. In general, material covered during office hours was beneficial and helpful in my overall understanding of the course.

9 (47.4%):	Strongly Agree
8 (42.1%):	Agree
1 (5.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.3%):	Strongly Disagree

5. I went to the Instructional Assistant's discussion sections.

19 (100.0%):	Yes
0 (0.0%):	No
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

6. The Instructional Assistant came prepared and well organized to lead discussion sections.

15 (78.9%):	Strongly Agree
3 (15.8%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (5.3%):	Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

7. The Instructional Assistant presented course material clearly and answered questions accurately at discussion sections.

13 (68.4%):	Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%):	Agree
1 (5.3%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.3%):	Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Not Applicable

8. In general, discussion sections enhanced my understanding of the course material.

14 (73.7%):	Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%):	Agree
0 (0.0%):	Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%):	Disagree
1 (5.3%):	Strongly Disagree

9. I went to the Instructional Assistant's midterm exam review session(s).

18 (94.7%): Yes
1 (5.3%): No
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

10. The Instructional Assistant came prepared and well organized to exam reviews.

15 (78.9%): Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

11. The Instructional Assistant presented course material clearly and answered questions accurately at exam reviews.

14 (73.7%): Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
1 (5.3%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

12. In general, exam reviews enhanced my understanding of the course material.

14 (73.7%): Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
1 (5.3%): Strongly Disagree

13. The Instructional Assistant was approachable, courteous and showed interest and concern for students' learning and understanding.

16 (84.2%): Strongly Agree
2 (10.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
1 (5.3%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

14. I would recommend this Instructional Assistant to other students.

13 (68.4%): Strongly Agree
4 (21.1%): Agree
1 (5.3%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
1 (5.3%): Strongly Disagree

15. Do you have any other comments to add to your evaluation?

Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community

- He imposed his knowledge from phd classes on us. Whatever discussed in the TA section are almost completely departed from what we have learned from the class. I felt like it was not 120B, but 220B class. Abstract terms, derivations, terminologies and skills of linear algebra which are not required become a must for this class. We are overwhelmed by the TA, not the professor.
- he is a really good TA
- He usually replies me back so quick through email!
- I really liked this TA. He was just a great TA and I really felt a contagious enthusiasm for the subject of economics. His Achilles heel is that he is a little too smart. Like he really brought a lot of upper level math into the discussions and sort of assumed many of us were on board with it. I feel pretty confident in my math skills and it was still hard. My suggestion in that regard is to assign extra reading or specific videos to watch that will help bring everyone up to speed on those topics. For example a Khan academy video about basic linear algebra that would fit into our understanding of multicollinearity. I am not saying he should dumb down the math (because I really think it is important to introduce higher concepts that challenge students and prepare them better for Grad school), but I am saying to provide more resources to bridge the gap of our understanding. Like for every hour of things taught in class, have about 2 hours of easier material to get understanding and practice with the material. I am not saying he create the material, just source material already created that would be helpful.
To be fair, this was his first quarter as a TA for this course, and so it was expected for it to be a little rough. He also said in our last discussion section that he will work to improve lecture notes for his sections which I think will accomplish much of what I am asking. And to be very fair, people really didn't go to his office hours so we can't really blame him for all of our difficulties with learning the material if we aren't meeting him somewhere in the middle. Things that I really enjoyed from him are that his discussion sections really added to our understanding of the material. Too often discussion sections are unnecessary. They just go over problem sets that will be posted anyway, and the TA doesn't provide too much additional to the discussion of the topic.
He also was just a genuine person who cared deeply for his students. Even though he had a bit of trouble explaining to the lower 25% of the class, he tried hard. He also was generous in giving points back on the quizzes.
Alternatively put him in the honors version of this course and let him go at it.

Overall great experience and anything negative people write about him should be viewed in how uniquely enthusiastic and driven he is as a TA. Professor O said that evaluations are sometimes used to "weed out" bad TAs, and he surely is not in that category whatsoever. He just needs a little guidance and nudge in the right direction. Take this from the person who went out of their way to write nearly the limit of a 3000 character response.

- One of the best TAs in terms of working on relevant material and how clear he explained concepts and worked out problems
- Pietro helped me understand the subject probably better than any other TA I've had. The material is difficult, but he grades generously to make up for it. He wants us to know the underlying reasons behind things instead of just memorizing formulas. I feel a lot more comfortable with my knowledge of the subject after having him as a TA.
- Pietro is an amazing TA! He was very helpful throughout the quarter and I learned a lot from going to his sections!
- Pietro really cares about teaching and about the students learning. He's very patient and approachable. He's a great TA
- Speaks fast, very very smart and personally the best TA I have had

Please note that any responses or comments submitted by evaluators do not necessarily reflect the opinions of instructors, Economics, 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 his or her opinion.