

Question 3

Was the relationship between the section (if any) and the course effective, and how could it be improved? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his/her teaching be improved?

Response 1

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex Cerjan was the man! He was funny, helpful, and witty. You can't go wrong with Cerjan.

Response 2

Alexander Witte Cerjan

OK. Alex was amazing. I haven't had physics or calculus in almost 30 years--yes, I am the old guy in the class! Yet, Alex walked me through partial derivatives until I understood them and did it on his own time. He answered even the dumbest questions in class in a way that forced you to understand the answer rather than just telling you what it was. A graduate student doesn't want to hear that they are a good teacher--good teaching gets you nowhere in academia, but it is a rare skill. Most science teaching at Yale is terrible--senior scientists don't want to teach, are bad at it, and so students end up teaching themselves. This lab was one of the exceptions--Alex was a good teacher and I am grateful for it.

Response 3

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex is the man. He made this lab class enjoyable, was thoroughly interested in the subject, and was very helpful when we had problems with our experiments. I couldn't ask for a more out of a lab TA.

Response 4

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex has been an excellent Teaching Fellow for this semester's Physics lab course. He invites an engaging yet relaxed environment during an otherwise stressful physics lab experiment. He has been generous with his time, explaining complicated and frustrating aspects of physics lab like calculation of uncertainty during his spare time. He usually follows up with helpful emails as well. I find his grading to be "just right". He is not strip points overzealously, leading to unnecessary stress while preparing the lab report. But at the same time his comments allow us to understand and learn from our errors. Overall, I believe that with his schedule flexibility and helpfulness, he is a great TA.

Response 5

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex is amazing! He was really helpful in getting us to understand the lab techniques and the

physics behind our experiments rather than just telling us what to do. Alex is great!!!

Response 6

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex is one of the best teaching fellows I've ever had. Great sense of humor and understanding for his students.

Response 7

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was a pretty cool TA. He was really helpful with equipment questions and physics questions in general. I thought his attitude was also something that I fed off of during lab. Lab would have been a lot more dry and boring if I didn't have him as a TA. I am really considering trying to get him as a TA next semester of physics lab-- I think that says a lot.

Response 8

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was a great TA, very resourceful and very fun to have during lab. If his pre-lab lectures were longer, we would not have had to spend so much time during the experiment troubleshooting. However, he was a very fair grader and a stellar TA!

Response 9

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was a pretty good TA. He was occasionally harsh in grading, but he was very helpful in explaining things.

Response 10

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was awesome! not only did he do a great job running the lab and explaining the more complicated experiments, he also did a great job of making lab fun. He was always friendly and helpful and made himself readily available via email and in-person meetings for any questions we might have. I am going to try to take his section again next semester.

Response 11

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was an excellent TA! Clearly interested in the material and tried to get us interested as well. Engaging and always made time to meet with us if we had further questions.

Response 12

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Alex was FANTASTIC. He was so helpful, always willing to meet with us and answer our questions, both in and out of class, and was also a great personality to have in lab. He was friendly, fun, and

made lab enjoyable and much less intimidating. If he is a TA for any other lab I take, I'll be sure to try to be in his section!

Response 13

Alexander Witte Cerjan

Great TA and had a lot of fun with him. The class experiments may have been dull, but it was great to talk with Alex.

Yale Online Course Evaluation
Yale University © 2004-2006