

Summary of Teaching Evaluations

Kolby Hanson

As an Instructor at US Naval War College:

<i>Classes</i>	<i>Mean (out of 7)</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Strategy and War (2020-21, 2021-22)	6.9	41

As a Teaching Fellow at Columbia:

<i>Classes</i>	<i>Mean (out of 5)</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Introduction to International Relations (2014, 2015, 2016)	4.4	62
Game Theory, Graduate (2015, 2016)	4.5	23
Quantitative Political Reasoning, Graduate (2018)	4.4	17
Scope & Methods, Undergraduate (2018, 2019)	4.6	30
Total	4.5	132

Student Comments

Class Activities and Discussions

- Kolby is a fantastic instructor. He is tactful, smart, funny, and really enlightened my perspectives on the cases we covered. He asked some of the best thought provoking questions I have ever had. I can tell he desires his students receive a comprehensive understanding of the subjects we study. 100% recommend as an instructor! (Strategy and War, 2021)
- Kolby was one of the best TAs I have ever had. Not only does he know the material, but he knows how to teach it. He always brought in fun little exercises for us to play that really helped to get a scope of the material. Also, he did an excellent job of facilitating discussion, getting students to speak up while also leading the conversation in a helpful direction. (Intro IR, 2016)
- Kolby held a participation-based discussion section that helped me stay engaged with practicing the material myself and checking my own intuition for the interpretive material. Explained cases well and answered questions until inquirer was satisfied. (Scope & Methods, 2018)
- I valued the engaging environment that Kolby created that made understanding the historical scenarios fun. This discussion section met my expectations by furthering my knowledge from lecture. I would definitely recommend students to take discussion sections with Kolby if they are looking for a stress-free learning environment. (Intro IR, 2016)
- Good. I liked the scenarios and simulations. Effective at reviewing and clarifying material without being repetitive of Professor Marten. Also very friendly, which was helpful because the topic was very intimidating. (Intro IR, 2015)
- Kolby is a great TA. Discussion sections were always helpful, and Kolby provided useful group discussion activities that illustrated important concepts in the course. (Intro IR, 2016)
- I liked the discussions. I would recommend because the TA is amazing and I always have a fun time in class and learn a lot. (Intro IR, 2016)

Explaining Concepts and Answering Questions

- Kolby was great and clearly very knowledgeable. He brought a great point of view that we being in the DoD, don't often have. The alternate lens Kolby provided was refreshing. He contributed thought-provoking questions that really brought a sense of wholeness to the seminar. (Strategy and War, 2021)
- Kolby did a great job and often was able to effectively present "devil's advocate" arguments that greatly enhanced the sessions. Great insight on the paper tutorials and as a civilian was able to bring his own experience and expertise that was usually from a little bit different perspective. (Strategy and War, 2021)
- Excellent at explaining topics, encourages questions and answers them well. Clearly solid grasp of topics and a great ability to express them fully so that people who are lost can be helped (which is the whole point of discussion sections - to help those who have not already completely grasped the topic). Friendly and approachable, which has proven important in this class (everything moves very quickly and students are afraid to admit that they are struggling with any topic or assignment). (Game Theory, 2016)
- He is very approachable, informative, and explains the concepts in a clear way. He encourages participation and has fun activities that get everyone involved and presents the class material in an engaging manor. (Intro IR, 2016)
- Kolby did a great job at making what he was teaching extremely clear and concise, without overcomplicating the material while managing to keep it interesting and engaging. An hour long discussion section doesn't seem like the easiest format for a professor or TA to get their point across, but Kolby always expounded on the most relevant or important material discussed in lecture and helped me understand it from different paradigms. (Intro IR, 2016)
- Kolby was an amazing TA and has an incredible ability to make the material very available. It was my best experience with a TA at Barnard / Columbia. (Intro IR, 2015)

Helping Students Learn

- I would like to specifically highlight Kolby Hanson's excellence in facilitating discussion. His breadth of knowledge, insight and engaging dialogue always advanced our discussions in a substantive way. I cannot say enough about his professionalism and engaging all students to include our international partners. (Strategy and War, 2022)
- Most valuable TA I have ever had. Without his help I would not have done well in this class. (Scope & Methods, 2018)
- Kolby is a very enthusiastic and kind TA... I also appreciated his sense of humor and patience in teaching political science students statistics. Kolby did a great job of making the course enjoyable, even if early in the morning. He did a great job of providing constructive feedback from all assignments and made the material easy to understand. (Scope & Methods, 2019)
- Kolby is an outstanding TA. He is responsive, enthusiastic, and incredibly supportive. He is able to engage students during section and is extremely helpful during his office hours, with great knowledge in the topic. He is a fair grader and has helpful comments in the problem sets. I am very appreciative of his support and do not have any suggestions for improvement. (Game Theory, 2016)
- Extremely nice, approachable, and encouraging! It's so important to me to have a TA that is not intimidating, because I can be shy but discussion sections can be so helpful if I am encouraged to participate. (Intro IR, 2016)