



# Individual Teaching Assistant Report Spring 2023 for GOV 385L - CAUSAL INFERENCE METHODS (38415) (Shengqiao Lin)

Project Title: **Instructor Course Evaluations Spring 2023**

Courses Audience: **17**

Responses Received: **14**

Response Ratio: **82.4%**

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## Report Comments

Results were collected during the implementation of a new course evaluation system.

### Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin

The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. The two sets of scales used for core evaluation questions and the associated weights are:

Strongly Agree (5)

Agree (4)

Neutral (3)

Disagree (2)

Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)

Very Good (4)

Satisfactory (3)

Unsatisfactory (2)

Very Unsatisfactory (1)

The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

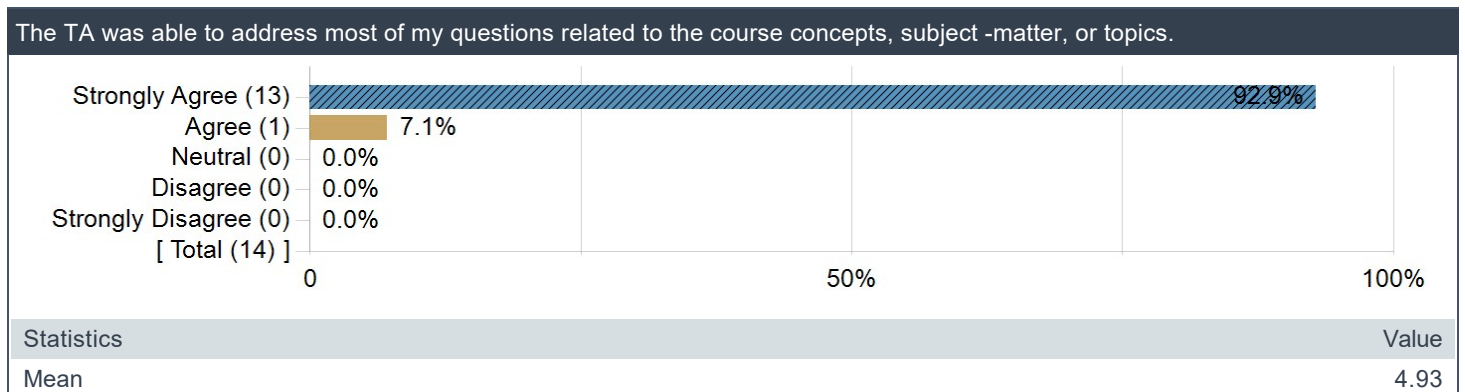
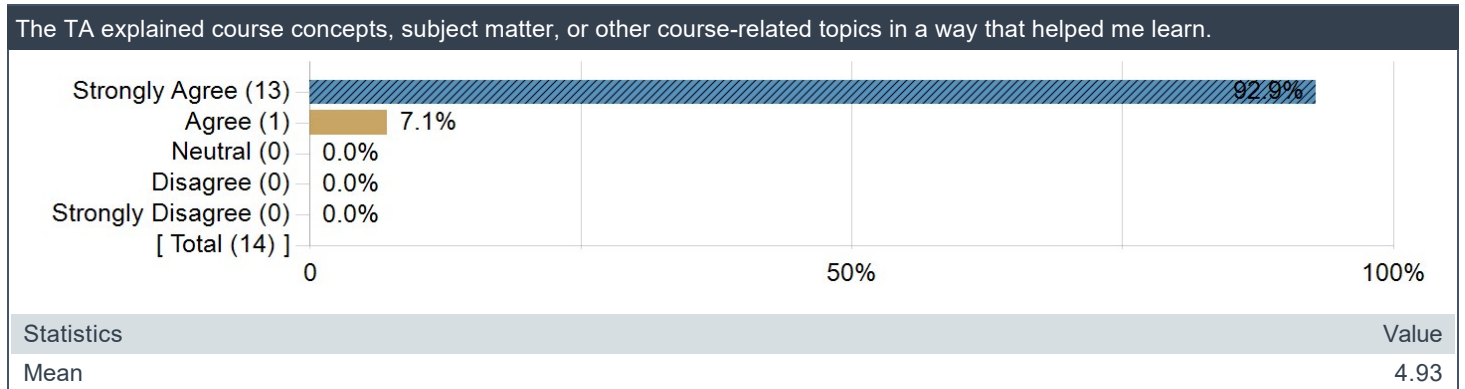
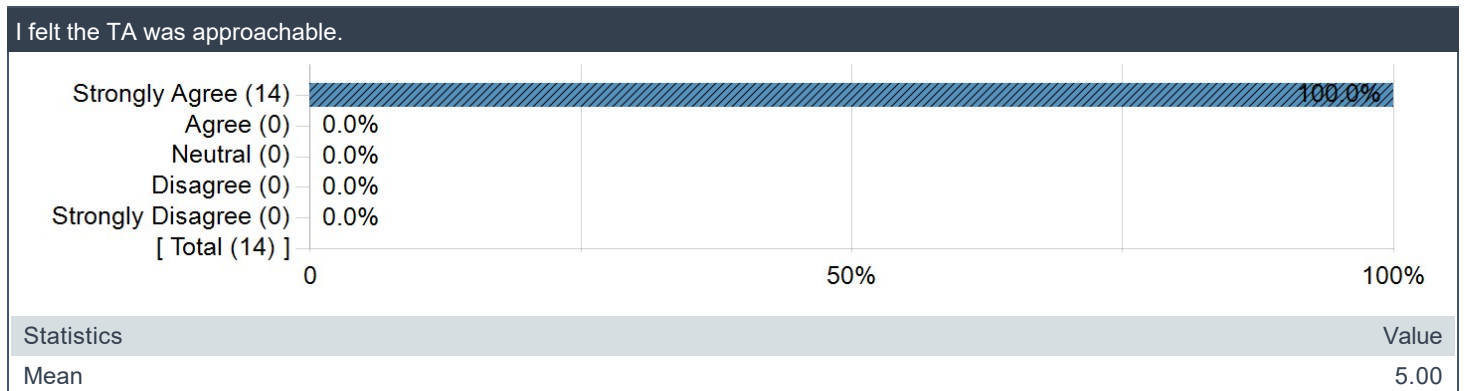
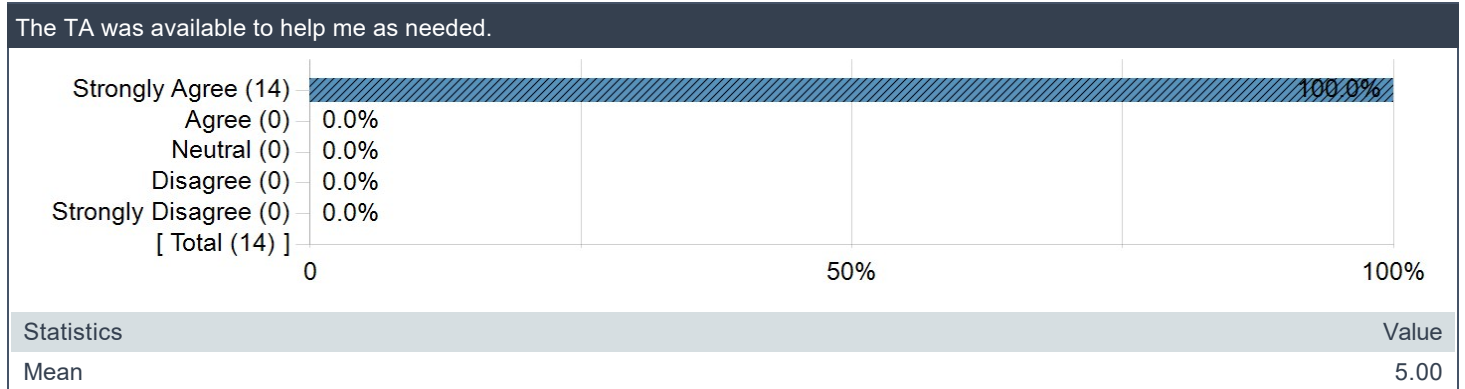
The number of students (e.g. Respondents) marking each option is reported for each of the items. These frequency distributions provide information about the level of student ratings and the spread and shape of the class distribution of responses. The distributions thus provide a picture of student perception of a course.

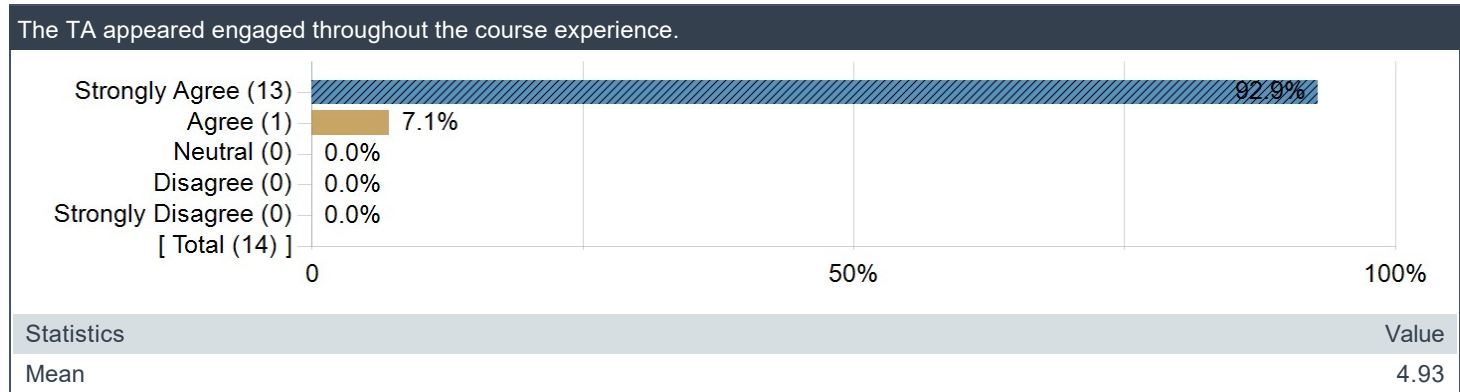
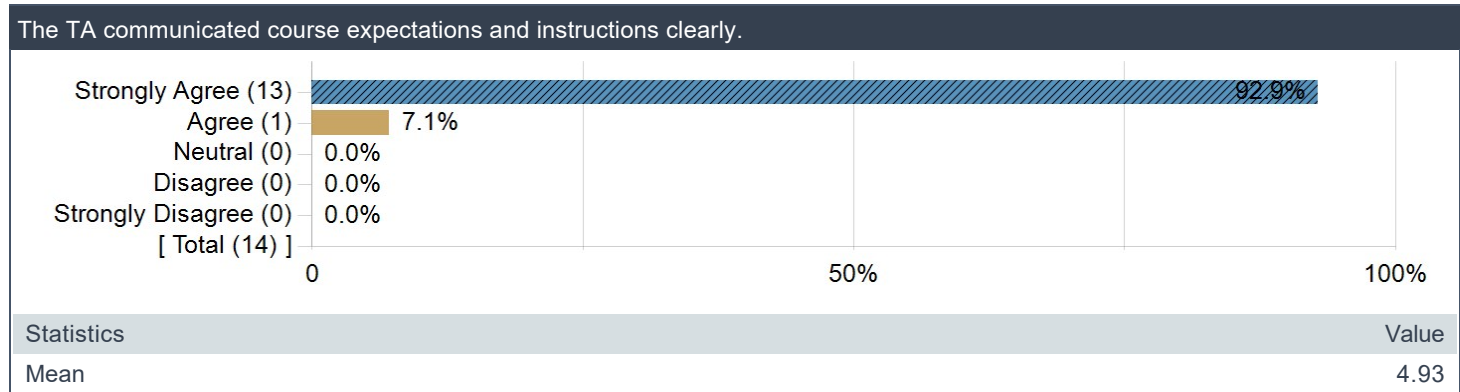
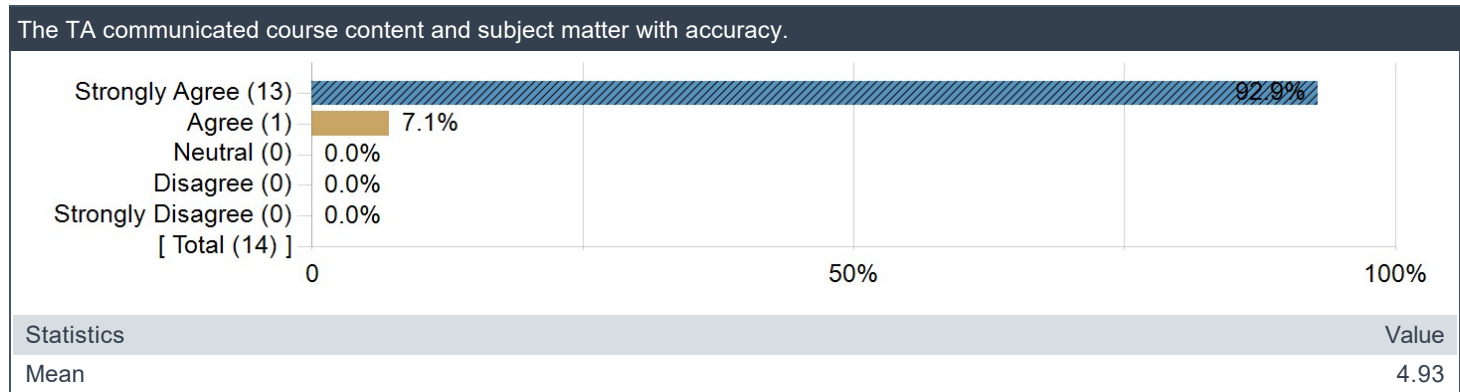
Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no one method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor.

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Creation Date: **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

## Teaching Assistant Questions





## Comment Questions

Identify aspects of your interactions with your teaching assistant that were most effective in helping your learning.

Comments
Shengqiao was a fantastic TA!
The TA was extremely helpful in allowing students to understand and practice the contents of the class. Moreover, the replications of papers that he conducted were extremely helpful to see the steps that we should take to complete the problem sets.
He was responsive over email and he was very prepared for section.
I really appreciated the r codes and the section materials. I liked it when we went through the readings and replicated them.
Shengqiao's sessions, including replications and code, for this course were the most logistically helpful part of my time in graduate school for understanding causal inference and developing the ability to design my own projects. He also gave helpful advice one-on-one for developing projects and troubleshooting when working with data later on. I am confident Shengqiao caused me to be a better political scientist!
Shengquio did an excellent job leading sections, specifically adding nuance and context to the methodological approach we discussed earlier in the week. I could tell he knew his stuff and I could get helpful responses to questions relevant to my research project for the course.
Great TA sections! Really well-selected code and applications for review. I also liked that the slides had enough information to be useful later on.
listing up each method's assumptions and the points we should be careful of. It was very helpful. Also, the TA replicated existing papers and showed very good examples and codes, which made it easier to understand the class. The TA is also knowledgeable and enthusiastic. He thought us new packages and more general tips in R and methods.

What is one thing the teaching assistant could do differently to help improve future students' learning in this course?

Comments
While it's true that students may not always enjoy being assigned work during sections, he could increase interactivity and encourage greater participation.
N/A
I would recommend offering sections in a hybrid fashion. Partially due to scheduling, this ended up being my only activity on Friday as a reason to come to campus. I ended up missing a section because of the lack of a Zoom option. While the slides provided afterward did help fill in the blanks, it would have been nice to be able to attend virtually. While we did start having hybrid options later in the semester, I would have appreciated the option earlier in the semester.
Maybe have some final discussion questions for the TA sections? Or a time to talk about our projects? Just because we had extra time in a few of them.
Nothing. He was perfect. I am very lucky to have him as a TA.