

June 1, 2017

Mr. Loren Fryxell
Department of Economics
Kellogg Global Hub, Room 3317
Evanston Campus 2600

Dear Loren:

On the occasion of your Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, I would like to transmit to you a summary statement of the commendation the Teaching Awards Committee conveyed to me.

Loren Fryxell is a PhD candidate in microeconomic theory, mainly working within the subfield of “mechanism design.” Loren views teaching assignments not as a requirement to earn his degree but as an opportunity to help students really master economics. His actions support this goal: his office hours are generously long, and he makes himself available beyond these times to accommodate students. Loren has a gift for unlocking the complicated problems in intermediate microeconomics, and therefore word has spread about his outstanding teaching ability. As one student comments: *“Loren is amazing and clear; all other TAs didn’t know what they were talking about.”* Another student wrote: *“Loren spent countless extra hours ... working with students, on weekday afternoons, before classes, and even over the weekend. His ability to connect with students was reflected in the sheer demand for his office hours, with often 30 students showing up to ask questions and review material. Despite this large number, though, Loren ensured that each and every student left with a clearer understanding of the material and ample opportunity to ask him specific questions.”* And another admirer, speaking of a final review session that Loren held, tells us: *“It seemed as though every single intermediate economics student came ... to hear Loren’s words of wisdom.”* All in all, Loren is a prime example of a graduate student who can excel both in his field and in the teaching of his field. One student puts it this way: *“As a senior, I have had my fair share of TAs, but Loren is by far the best... He is practically a professor!”*

I was delighted to see you at the luncheon yesterday and to congratulate you for your outstanding efforts on behalf of our students.

Cordially,



Adrian Randolph
Dean

cc: Lawrence J. Christiano, Chair, Department of Economics
Ian Savage, Associate Chair, Department of Economics

Individual Report for Loren Fryxell (ECON_310-2_20: Microeconomics)

Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Spring 2016

Project Audience 196

Responses Received 156

Response Ratio 79.6%

Report Comments

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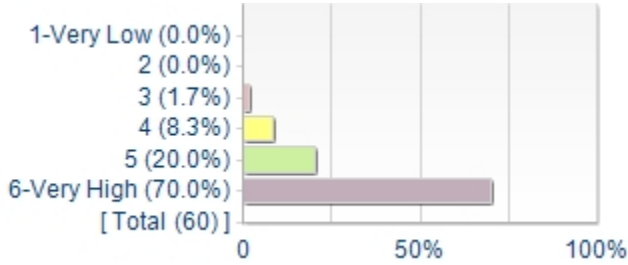
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Creation Date Thu, Oct 26, 2017

TA QUESTIONS

Please rate the TA on the following criteria:

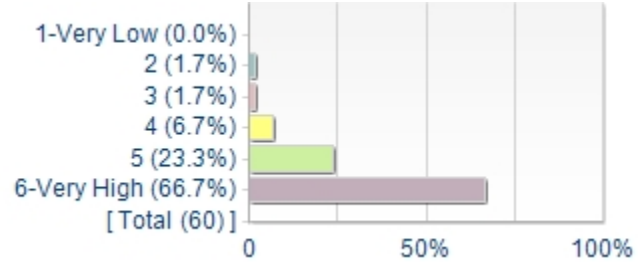
1. The TA was able to answer the students' questions adequately.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	1.7%
4	4	5	8.3%
5	5	12	20.0%
6-Very High	6	42	70.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	60
Mean	5.58
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.72

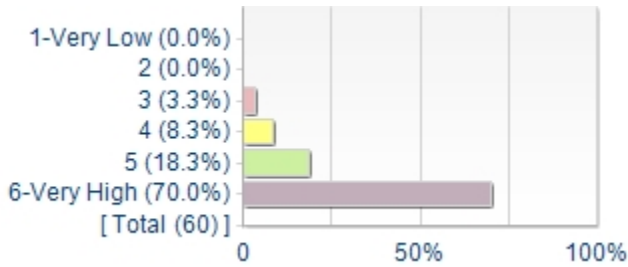
2. The TA was well prepared for each session.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	1	1.7%
3	3	1	1.7%
4	4	4	6.7%
5	5	14	23.3%
6-Very High	6	40	66.7%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	60
Mean	5.52
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.83

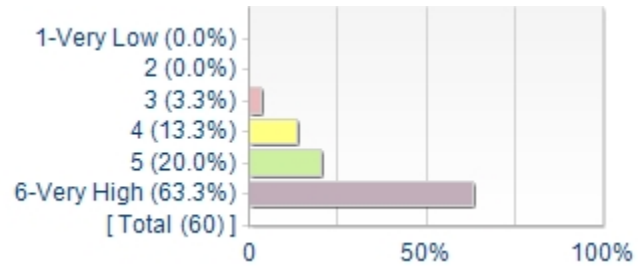
3. The TA communicated ideas in a clear manner.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	2	3.3%
4	4	5	8.3%
5	5	11	18.3%
6-Very High	6	42	70.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	60
Mean	5.55
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.79

4. The TA showed strong interest in teaching the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	2	3.3%
4	4	8	13.3%
5	5	12	20.0%
6-Very High	6	38	63.3%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	60
Mean	5.43
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.85

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of the teaching assistant?

Comments
Loren is the freaking man. So clear. So good. A stone-cold killer.
best ta ever. at first glance he may seem like a free spirit with his long flowing locks but he explains everything carefully and goes through things logically. He explains things better than the professor honestly.
Loren was a great TA all around, in explaining things, being prepared for class, and just doing a great job teaching all around.
Kept it clear and concise. Always answered questions adequately and in a clear manner.
He is very nice and explains things clearly. I think he was the best TA of the course. I unfortunately had class during most of his office hours, so I had to go to the office hours of another TA.
Loren was really great during the review sessions.
I wish he would have handed out the section problems and answers. They would have been helpful when studying for the exam.
LOREN WAS THE BEST. He knew exactly how to explain things so that we understood the material.
Loren is great. He is interested, and helpful.
I went to Loren's office hours regularly and he is the reason I had any kind of grasp of the material. He was very patient with us and really great at explaining difficult concepts. He is one of the best TAs I've ever had.
He explained and summarized Ely's lectures very concisely and clearly.
Explained and reiterated key points well and was able to provide different views for topics we needed to know as well as different ways to go about problem solving.

Comments
Very smart and knows the concepts very well, willing to help students if they have questions.
Loren is awesome. I don't know if he's looking to go into teaching in the future but he should definitely consider it because he is phenomenal. This class would have been hell without his sections and office hours.
He wasn't even my TA, but his office hours were the best! He's very smart, very clear in his explanations and a good guy in general.
Loren is a great TA. Every section, he made complicated ideas seem very easy to understand. Would highly recommend.
best TA ive had at northwestern. so helpful and explained things so well
Loren was amazing. Explained things really well and probably one of the best econ TA's I've ever had.
My TA Loren was a really good TA. He made the material easier to understand and did a great job at answering questions.
Loren is intelligent and engaging, but not the most approachable individual.
Loren's the best TA I've had for any Econ class. You could probably have learned everything you needed to know (for testing purposes) just having gone to his section, but sometimes class ended too soon and we didn't ever get to finish the problems for the week, which kind of sucked.
Honestly the best TA ever, very chill, very knowledgeable, would definitely chill with outside of class, 10/10
Loren is an awesome TA. His discussion sessions have substantially helped clear up my confusion in lecture. didn't go so idk
LOREN IS THE BEST. Strengths were that he made the concepts so accessible, but still allowed you to reach the conclusion on your own. Loren has no weaknesses, he is the best and everyone should have him.
Loren is one chill mofo. Very articulate and knowledgeable. I learned more from his office hours and review session than at any other time.
did not have this TA
Loren would give us example problems (a rarity in this class) and bring things down to earth from Ely's crazy highbrow lectures
Loren was super helpful and offered strong supplementary sections to the lecture.
Strengths - super smart, really great at explaining things Weaknesses - none that I can think of
Strengths: Taught us the material in his own words. Weaknesses: Needs to hold more office hours if possible! Too many people come at the same time and not much attention is given to the students.
Loren was the most amazing TA. He taught me the entire course, and taught it in a very straight forward manner.
One of the best TA's I have had at Northwestern. He knows how to explain this material in a way which makes sense for the students. He is quick to respond to emails even when there is an exam the following day. Very valuable person throughout this class
He's really helpful.
LOREN is the BEST TA. He really cared about our work and helping us understand it. I wouldn't have survived this class without him. I so appreciate how much time he took to help us and how well thought out his explanations were. He seriously was the best part of the class.
LOREN IS THE BEST TA EVER! He is so willing to help and gets his ideas across in a very clear manner and in a way that we will understand. He is always prepared. No weaknesses :)
Bless you Loren!! Your office hours were so helpful. I wish Loren had taught the class because he made game theory so straight-forward and simple. He also held office hours on the weekend, which was so unnecessary but incredibly beneficial. He cut right through Ely's bullshit.
Great TA
Loren is absolutely amazing. Many thanks to him for being so great at explaining what was going on in class and in the problem sets.
Wouldn't know

Comments

Better than Ely at explaining concepts

Loren's one of my favorite TA's, extremely bright, well-spoken, and approachable, and explained concepts very clearly.

NA

Loren was the best! He really prioritized teaching, and put in the extra effort/hours to make sure we understood things. He was good at explaining problems in a way that we could understand. By the end of the quarter, I think half of the class went to his discussion/office hours.

An amazing TA! The only reason I was actually able to survive this course. Loren explained each concept thoroughly and seemed genuinely interested in his students being able to learn the material, sometimes teaching it his own way rather than what was expected. I wish he gave out problem set hand outs though!

was able to answer all questions

Individual Report for Loren Fryxell (ECON_310-2_20: Microeconomics)

Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Fall 2016

Project Audience 175

Responses Received 128

Response Ratio 73.1%

Report Comments

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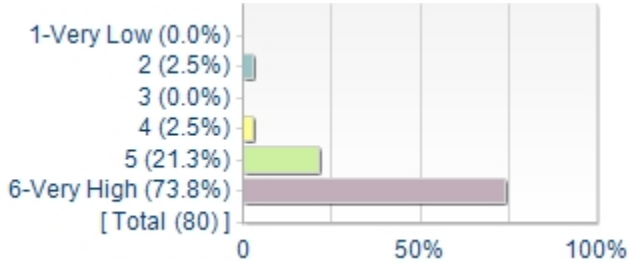
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Creation Date Thu, Jun 08, 2017

TA QUESTIONS

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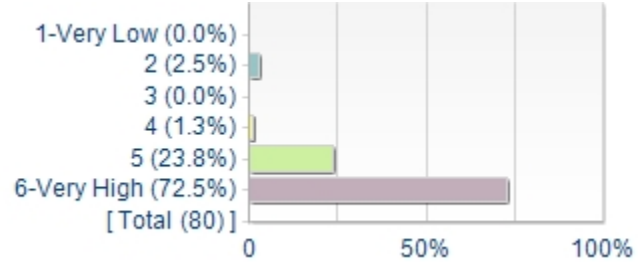
1. The TA was able to answer the students' questions adequately.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	2.5%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	2	2.5%
5	5	17	21.3%
6-Very High	6	59	73.8%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	80
Mean	5.64
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.77

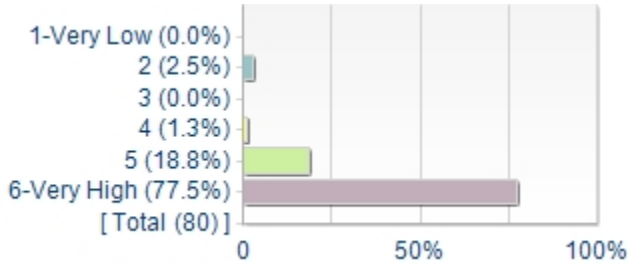
2. The TA was well prepared for each session.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	2.5%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	1.3%
5	5	19	23.8%
6-Very High	6	58	72.5%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	80
Mean	5.64
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.75

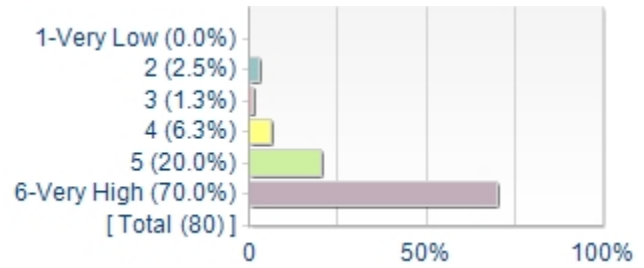
3. The TA communicated ideas in a clear manner.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	2.5%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	1.3%
5	5	15	18.8%
6-Very High	6	62	77.5%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	80
Mean	5.69
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.74

4. The TA showed strong interest in teaching the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	2	2.5%
3	3	1	1.3%
4	4	5	6.3%
5	5	16	20.0%
6-Very High	6	56	70.0%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	80
Mean	5.54
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.87

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

What are the primary strengths and weaknesses of the teaching assistant?

Comments
Cared a lot about the students and was always available to help.
na
LOREN IS THE BEST TA I HAVE EVER HAD. As a senior, I have had my fair share of TAs but Loren is by far the best. He is so willing to help you and explains everything so well. He is practically a professor!
Loren is the best! He helped me understand the material when I didn't get it during Ogawa's lectures.
Really passionate about economics. Willing to go beyond the material and provide his own unique interpretation. Very nice guy. Teaches the material in a slow and patient manner, so that everyone understands. Very swell swell teacher.
Best TA ever
This guy is phenomenal. Explained things super clearly, and there was never a question he couldn't answer. He went through examples at a perfect pace, and it was always a good idea to go to his office hours, since he never wasted time. Learned a ton from him. He's the man.
He presented the material clearly and comprehensively in discussion section.
Loren is the man. He is really great at teaching the material and especially going over tricky concepts. He prepared students very well for the midterm and I do not think I have had a better TA.
I didn't have Loren at all
Loren ALL THE WAY!!!!
So helpful! Always wonderful during Sunday office hours.
I thought he effectively selected problems to review and explained them well.

Comments
Loren was super knowledgeable and helpful. Very available during office hours. He was VERY CLEAR in section and really explained the material in an easy to follow way.
Loren is by far the best TA I've ever had. He's knows the course material really well and does a great job of explaining concepts in a clear and different way. He's also super nice and always willing to help. Loren should be a full time professor at NU one day!
Loren is amazing! Like a econ god! He explains everything so calmly and dumbs it down for us so that we understand. He is a great help!
Terrific at teaching the tough material. best teacher I've had
H
Best TA I have ever had.
Great TA, knew what he was talking about and communicated ideas very clearly. Best econ TA I've had
Best TA I've had, Sunday office hours are awesome, gives much better explanations than Ogawa. Also sick hair!!! Not always the best with time management during section though
Loren is the best TA! He is really good at answering all questions and he takes the time to help you individually.
Loren was very well versed in the subject matter and very available to help students. His office hours and discussion sections were by far the most helpful, and his study sessions always helped prepare for exams.
Would not have mad enough it through this course without Loren. He gives amazing explanations and is so helpful!!
The TA was very helpful
he does good job of explaining all aspects of a question you have for him. Additionally he makes things more understandable
He was committed to helping students succeed in understanding the course material. However, he was sometimes almost too committed, sometimes using up to 10 minutes of a 50 minute section to answer one student's question.
Excellent at explaining. Really helped me understand difficult concepts intuitively
Amazing TA! Willing to go above and beyond explaining the material, probably one of the best teacher's I've ever had
My favorite TA of any economic class. I had him for 202 last year. I probably would not have been successful in this class without him. He is super accessible for extra practice. He explains complex concepts super well. He is a lecturer who Northwestern should hire after he finishes his PHD work. Among Econ Majors of my year, he is the undisputed favorite. We much prefer to go this extra help sessions than any other TA or Professor, for he gives actual tangible help that can tangibly impact the way we perform on exams. He shows you how to do complex problems in a very Aristotle way: he asks questions to guide you to an answer.
Loren was great, met students outside of class too
Loren was an excellent TA, miles better than Husnu. He was clear and helped my understanding of concepts.
Did not have him
IF only Loren could be my ta for every econ class
He's so smart!!!!!!! Can explain things in a simple manner
Very available to help students.
Able to clearly articulate the material for this class. I would have failed with his help because Ogawa did nothing.
Loren is a great TA.