Teaching Assessment

The following is a representative sample of qualitative feedback. Full course reviews available upon request. All student feedback is presented verbatim.

Student evaluations

CHDV 29800. BA Honors Seminar, Fall 2020 (Instructor of Record, Remote)

In this small seminar, third-year students pursuing departmental honors developed a research proposal for the BA Thesis project. As preceptor, leading this class involved both classroom instruction and hands-on research mentorship.

- Natalie's lectures and small group activities were really helpful in understanding different topics and applying that information
- The support Natalie gave throughout the quarter was invaluable. She made me feel comfortable to bring up issues or confusions without judgment and felt like she would be there is I needed help with anything.
- Natalie was always available. She was so nice and so helpful.

SOSC 14300. Mind-3, Spring 2020 (Instructor of Record, Remote)

- Natalie did a good job of planning ways to lead class time that would stimulate discussion, which was hard to do online
- Super nice and accomodating. Natalie was always willing to help and was very cognisant of the circumstances each of us was in. She was also a good discussion facilitator. Thank you
- Dowling made discussion very interesting and interactive (using shared Google Docs).
- Willing to hear feedback and adapt to remote learning
- Natalie was very helpful in providing feedback, initiating interesting discussions, and challenging us to think about the topics from many perspectives.

CHDV 20000. Introduction to Human Development, Fall 2019 (Teaching Assistant)

This course had multiple teaching assistants. Selections only include comments mentioning the TA by name.

- The weekly discussion sessions with Natalie were extremely helpful in putting the course content into view and having meaningful conversations about the wide variety of topics that were covered, especially when they were sometimes hard to grasp.
- Natalie Dowling was the best discussion leader I've had for the three years I have been at UChicago. She builds off your ideas and encourages people to think. She also breaks down readings so that way we can engage with them and thinking critically within their contexts.
- Natalie did an excellent job facilitating discussions to ensure students got to guide the conversation, but also ensuring that we reviewed and mapped out key topics. Natalie was so helpful to my learning in this course!

- Natalie was one of the best TAs i've had the chance of learning from at the college. She led discussions making sure everyone contributed, making sure to cover the important takeaways from every week. She made discussions enjoyable but also very informative, especially with her attention to potentially ambiguous topics.
- Natalie planned some activities to break the monotony of simply talking about the content. These included a debate, splitting into groups, and discussing current events. She also helped provide really useful review, and is very approachable.
- The TA, Natalie, was arguably one of the few reasons I succeeded in this course. She is incredibly capable of guiding a discussion, answering questions thoughtfully and in a timely manner, and creating a welcoming and low stress environment.

SOSC 14100, 14200, 14300. Mind, 2018-2019. (Teaching Intern)

In this three-quarter sequence students had a different faculty instructor each quarter. Selections (verbatim) are taken from evaluations for all three quarters.

- Natalie was good at making sure discussions stayed on track and questioning ideas that were not fully formed.
- She gave very good comments during office hours. Also, she gave good instructive criticism on discussion papers.
- Natalie was very responsive to emails and open to discuss anything from our weekly responses to details covered during lecture.
- Natalie was really useful outside of class in discussing the material and going over possible writing topics.
- She was very helpful in explaining concepts that the class found difficult and gave very helpful comments back on my weekly discussion posts.
- Natalie's contributions in discussions helped a lot with my understanding of the material as she very much was knowledgeable about the subject. She also gave great feedback to every assignment I had that allowed me to improve my writing and analysis skills. She was also very available and helpful outside of class!
- Natalie was very responsive to emails and gave specific feedback to improve scores on weekly responses.
- Clear comments and expectations on weekly discussion papers, really available and responsive outside of discussion.