

THOMAS GOLDRING

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TEACHING EVIDENCE

Selected Teaching Record

Instructor for *Mathematics for Public Policy and Management*

Summer 2014 –2016

Designed, administered, and taught a ‘math bootcamp’ course to approximately 45 incoming master’s students. Supervised the schedule and performance of three Teaching Assistants.

Teaching Assistant for *Applied Econometrics*

Fall 2012–2014

Taught weekly recitations, graded assignments, and held office hours for approximately 25 master’s students per semester.

Teaching Assistant for *Econometric Theory and Methods*

Fall 2015

Taught weekly recitations, graded assignments, and held office hours for 6 doctoral students.

Teaching Assistant for *Applied Microeconomics*

Fall 2016

Taught recitations, graded assignments, and held office hours for approximately 140 master’s students.

Head Teaching Assistant for *Management Science*

Spring 2013 & 2015–2016. Organized schedules for 5 other Teaching Assistants, taught recitations, graded assignments, and held office hours for approximately 120 master’s students per semester.

Evaluation of Teaching Performance

At Heinz College, students are asked to numerically rate their instructors on a scale from 1

to 5, where 1 is the lowest rating and 5 is the highest. My scores consistently rank me as a highly effective instructor. The table below summarizes my evaluations from two sections of the mathematics course I taught in 2014¹:

Instructor evaluation questions	No.	Avg.	% Low (1 & 2)	& High (4 & 5)
Was instructor enthusiastic?	47	4.7	0.0	93.6
Did instructor provide feedback?	47	4.8	0.0	97.9
Did instructor demand critical thinking?	46	4.4	0.0	84.8
Overall rating of instructor?	47	4.7	0.0	97.9

The table below summarizes my evaluations as a Teaching Assistant for Applied Econometrics in 2012 and 2013:

Teaching Assistant evaluation questions	No.	Avg.	% Low (1 & 2)	& High (4 & 5)
Was TA enthusiastic?	61	4.9	0.0	98.4
Did TA communicate effectively?	61	4.8	1.6	96.7
Was TA patient?	61	4.9	0.0	100.0
Overall rating of TA?	61	4.9	0.0	100.0

Selected Comments from Student Evaluations

Student Understanding

“Thomas, I appreciate that you always let me explain what I thought I understood about a problem instead of assuming that I didn’t know anything. It allowed me a chance to process what I did and did not know and to identify where I was getting stuck.”

“Thomas was very devoted to his job. He was willing to stay late many times to help students better understand the concepts and was always patient and explained the ideas thoroughly. He set an example for other TA’s to be patient and explain concepts thoroughly.”

“Thomas is the most helpful TA I have encountered at Carnegie Mellon. I owe my success in this course to his outstanding ability to explain econometrics.”

¹ Unfortunately, the evaluation system was revamped in 2015, so my scores in 2015 and 2016 are not directly comparable to the ratings from prior to 2015.

“He has a talent for taking complex information and explaining it in a variety of ways to make the concept clear to everyone.”

“Thomas’ lectures are very well-prepared and his classes tend to be very to VERY productive while not being too overwhelming. His lectures always [kept] me engaged throughout the classes. His clear, systematic, and logical explanations of the new concepts really helps my understanding of the materials covered, and his lectures are always ‘very well structured.’ I always know exactly what I need to work on after I finish each lecture. His lectures are always ‘so clear’ that it is hard to imagine anybody not understanding the concepts he’s trying to explain.”

“Great. Amazed at clarity of descriptions every time.”

Enthusiasm

“One of the best TAs I’ve ever had. He is not only extremely helpful and enthusiastic, but he is also a genuinely nice person who obviously cares about his students.”

“Thank you for making yourself available for additional time before exams. Your review sessions were extremely valuable.”

“Thomas has always gone above and beyond as a TA. He leads great recitations and truly wants to make sure we students understand the material before he moves on. It’s been a privilege to have had him as a TA for another course!”

“Thomas was an incredible asset to this class and my experience. His review sessions were very helpful and he always put in extra effort to make sure the students understood the material and/or assignments.”

“Thomas is the best. Hands down. He is dedicated to helping students and will go above and beyond to setup extra review sessions, answer questions, review concepts, and anything else asked of him. Thomas is able to explain things very clearly and simplify difficult techniques and concepts so they can be understood.”

“Thomas is an amazing instructor. He is so unbelievably nice and willing to help. He has stayed after class multiple times and is extremely dedicated to our learning of the material. Any future student should be glad to have him as a professor!”