

# TEACHING EVALUATION COMMENTS

Kevin Gerstle

(NOTE: Any typos in these comments were as written.)

## Summer 2015: Qualifying Exam Preparation Seminar – Algebra

- “As before, this was very well organized. It was the most prepared and funnest qual prep of the summer. Thank you for helping us out.”
- “Qual prep, was well organized by Kevin. I liked his separations of the main points of each topic. His in class exercises were helpful & difficult enough to lead to nice class discussion. He is clear in communication & definitely stresses what he finds important.”
- “You’re the best Kevin!”
- “I liked the division between lecture, in class exercises, and presentations. It was a good split that held my interest and prepared me for the exam.”
- “Great as always. Made himself available, had good examples, there were individual assignments helpful to my learning. Office hours were great.”
- “Kevin Gerstle challenges us to be better mathematicians. He loves algebra, and it shows. Harder concepts are clarified with easy examples.”

## Spring 2015: Abstract Algebra II

- “Kevin is an excellent TA. He helps to make the course a positive learning experience which I believe is invaluable. Needs no improvement.”
- “Kevin is simply a great teacher! His classes are my favorite”
- “Kevin, you are the best TA I’ve had so far for these 100-level courses. I wish I could lend even some constructive criticism, but I can’t think of anything. Just keep on doing what you do.”
- “The best TA I have had this year. Not only do you enjoy what you are doing, you really help us out. No solutions to HW’s are given, only hints which are great! You take time to do review sessions which we greatly appreciate. Thanks!”
- “Kevin’s an excellent teacher, gives good feedback, puts in a lot of time and presents very well. He does an especially good job of complementing the lecture – ie clarifying challenging concepts by giving examples or explaining a different way”
- “Kevin, I’m very appreciative of your existence, both because you run discussion very well in conjunction w/ Mio’s lectures and because you’re more than willing to explain things in different ways during office hours. Thanks for being an awesome TA!”
- “You the real MVP”
- “Good job! It’s been an enjoyable year. Kevin prepares thoroughly for discussion.”
- “Kevin is a great teacher. It is clear he cares about the class, and I appreciate having him as my teaching assistant throughout the 2014-2015 school year.”

- “Kevin is awesome! Hands down the best TA I’ve had for my grad courses at UIowa. Kevin is very organized and well-prepared for discussion. Even on days where we don’t have homework, he goes over helpful topics and examples. I really like the examples Kevin does in class, as I feel like they help to clarify the more abstract theory done in lecture. Kevin is very approachable and helpful in discussion and in office hours. He posts helpful solutions to homework too. I really got a lot out of discussion – Thanks Kevin!”

### **Fall 2014: Abstract Algebra I**

- “This discussion section was led very well. I would not change anything about this class. I am very excited to be in this environment again, in the spring.”
- “Kevin is doing a very good job and I honestly cannot think of any criticism.”
- “Overall great job Kevin. I usually try to give some sort of (constructive) criticism, but I can think of nothing to say besides keep on keepin on. One remark: You strike a very fine balance between giving hints and doing the problems for us.”
- “Homework is always returned to us on time. Discussion session we talked about difficult problems in each assignments, but its not like Kevin gave us the direct answer, which is very helpful I think so that we still get to rethink about those questions.”
- “In my opinion, you did a very good job.”
- “Kevin is an excellent TA! I would gladly nominate him for the TA awards!”
- “He speaks clearly and is always engaged in what hes doing. He is very prepared for discussion. He gives helpful concrete examples for abstract concepts. Hes great.”
- “Very entertaining/funny. Very helpful...I want to be like you when I grow up.”
- “Kevin is a great TA, especially for this grad course. He is always organized and well-prepared for class. He gets homework back quickly and leaves helpful comments. During discussion, he often gives useful examples. He also gives homework hints, but he doesnt solve the whole problem for us, which I think is helpful in a grad class. Discussion was very, very helpful this semester. Thanks Kevin!”
- “A very well organized TA that takes time and effort for our learning. He includes review sessions for exams, suggested problems to review, and gives a very well presented discussion session. Unlike other TAs, he takes time to teach additional material for hw rather than just giving hints. The passion for the material was clearly present.”
- “Kevin does an excellent job teaching discussion. Examples/reinforcement is given for tricky concepts in lecture which is very helpful. It is easy to tell a lot of time and effort is put into teaching. Plus class is always fun. Very good teacher.”
- “Kevin is a very enthusiastic TA. He clearly is passionate about the material and wants to make sure we all do our best. Hes available for questions and clarifications, and hes never made me feel stupid for not understanding something...I generally have no complaints at all. Kevin makes me want to do better, and I find that to be the mark of an excellent TA.”

### Spring 2014: Elementary Functions

- “Keep teaching. You are very helpful and approachable. Always teaches at a good pace for the class. Available whenever necessary and is encouraging to help students learn. Also accomidating for those w/ special learning needs/disabilities.”
- “Kevin is a great teacher. Hes always organized is has done well for teaching this course for the first time.”
- “The class was taught very well”
- “Good teacher, presented info in an interesting and easy to learn way”
- “Kevin is a great TA and goes above and beyond to make sure that everyone understands the material.”
- “Really enjoyed the class. Great teacher!”
- “Kevin C. Gerstle is the best TA I have ever had. I learned only from him, the book was too hard to understand. He was always extremely organized and helpful. He knew everything very well and would always do more examples of anything we asked him to. He made math enjoyable and made me love math again. Make sure he gets to teach Calc 1 and 2!!!”
- “Kevin was an excellent teacher. Very well done for his first time teaching this course. He went way above and beyond any math instructor I have ever had. He understood if people needed extra time for things because of life issues. He always responded promptly to getting thigs up on ICON. His emails back were always prompt. I appreciate how fast answer sheets to quizzes, worksheets, and exams got up on ICON. That helped me study more.”

### Fall 2013: Calculus I

- “Kevin did a really great job for teaching this. I can easily understand him and learn something. He made me feel math is fun. He is the best TA I ever had!”
- “Kevin is a good teacher. There are always review sessions outside of class and he spends time prepare the practice test. Also the class are fun!”
- “There is no disadvantages I would say about this discussion section. Kevin is really a excellent guy. I like him so much. He holds review section, brings us dessert, and be patient with any questions you ask. He is humours and nice. Looking forward to take his class again. He is the best TA I met.”
- “Great Teacher! Helps us learn the material way better than the professor. Best T.A. by far.”
- “The TA (Kevin) for this course was much better than the professor. He is the best math teacher Ive ever had. He put so much time into helping us, making practice exams, and wanting us to succeed. He is amazing”
- “Good teacher. Knows a lot about the subject and knows how to convey it well. Learned more from him than the actual professor.”
- “Kevin is a great TA. He clarifys confusing concepts that were introduced in lecture, and he provides lots of helpful examples during class. He makes the class fun and worth getting up in the morning for.”
- “Best TA Ive had so far! Kevin makes extra time for students that need help and cant make it to office hours. He also made discussion entertaining and I learned a lot! He is the only reason I am doing okay in this course.”
- “Overall, I think Kevin is a really good TA. Its is really fun to be in his class and I learned a lot.”

- “Really good TA. Enjoy learning in his class.”
- “Kevin is absolutely a good guy that worth to hire!!!”
- “The best TA I have ever seen!”
- “Great teacher, easily understandable, keeps class interested.”
- “Kevin was an awesome TA. Always showed up willing to do work to help us learn. Unfortunately, the prof doesnt teach us in a way for us to learn, so Kevin does an outstanding job of reteaching. Always willing to help with any of our questions, concerns, or panic attacks. Has a review session before every test in order for us to feel a little more confident. Amazing TA.”
- “Kevin made math discussion essential to my learning in this course. I always learned more than I was able to get from lecture and my own studies. This course as a whole was very challenging for me, but thankfully, Kevin as a T.A. made me feel comfortable enough that I didnt feel like giving up. Thanks for all the extra work you put in and for always being there for your students in every way possible. Its educators like Kevin that make you feel capable and encourage you to try your best when sometimes its hard to motivate yourself.”

### Spring 2013: Logic of Arithmetic

- “Kevin is easy to talk to. Kevin makes me laugh. Kevin likes to help. Kevin brings food to class.”
- “Kevin was the best T.A. I have ever had for any class especially any math/science course. He is extremely knowledgeable and is always willing to help us and does anything to see his students succeed. He could easily teach this whole course.”
- “Kevin is the best TA I have ever had! He is awesome!”
- “Kevin is awesome! He is extremely helpful and knowledgeable on this topic. He helps me understand the material and makes objectives very clear! Great TA!”
- “Kevin is a great TA. He is always willing to help and make sure we understand concepts”
- “Clearly explains math concepts that helps me understand and gives a clear concise explanation. Good TA, truly cares about how his students do in class.”
- “Kevin is the best T.A. that I have ever had since the beginning of my college career. He explains concepts very well and also is very helpful with questions and is always available for help if needed. He rocks!!”
- “Always made himself available! Was really flexible and open to help with any questions or concerns. Loved Kevin. Great sense of humor and made math applicable to my life. Awesome TA!”
- “Youre a great guy! Thanks for caring!”
- “Kevin did a very good job of clearing up lecture material to better my understanding. The test reviews were very helpful! Also he was funny”
- “Kevin is very dedicated and an excellent T.A. He has been very helpful and has contributed to most of my learning this semester for this course.”
- “Kevin has been the best TA I have had thus far in my college career. He is very helpful and encouraging and always available outside of class.”
- “You make class fun with your jokes and explain the material very well!”

- “You do a great job teaching this course. I believe you have furthered my learning for this course and helped me understand material.”
- “I loved coming to discussion sections! Kevin always helped me with my questions and everything seemed so easy when he taught. He also made me laugh 24/7. Favorite TA for sure.”
- “Hes really good at clarifying points that are confusing in lecture!”
- “Kevin, if you were not my TA I would not be able to understand anything in this course. Thank you for putting forth so much effort into helping us pass/do well in this class. You are an excellent TA.”

### **Spring 2012: Logic of Arithmetic**

- “Great job! He was organized and helpful, you could get into contact with him and was available when necessary.”
- “Good TA. I learned more in discussion than in lecture.”
- “Kevin did a great job as the TA for this course!”
- “Youre awesome!”
- “Probably the best TA Ive ever had. Keep up the good work!”
- “So sweet! Very nice TA, he knows the material well, I wish I could have him for a TA every semester. Approachable, respectable, THANK YOU!”
- “Kevin, you were a great T.A. You clearly explained the important points from lecture and made class fun and entertaining. P.S. I loved all of the math-related shirts you wore!”
- “I have relied on Kevin to clarify concepts taught in lecture.”
- “Kevin was a great T.A. who helped me a lot in my hardest subject. Hell be a great teacher.”
- “Kevin is an effective TA and makes sure that everyone understands the material in class.”

### **Fall 2011: Calculus for the Biological Sciences**

- “VERY good TA. Never learned anything in lecture, but Kevin explained everything so well. Really helped out. Hes really nice and really wants to help everybody. Great job, Kevin!”
- “I learned a lot. Thanks for taking the time to recover what happens so quickly in lecture.”
- “I think that overall you did a good job teaching. Discussion definitely helped me a lot more than lecture.”
- “I feel strongly that this discussion section really helped me this semester. The Professor was sometimes too fast writing in class/lecture, so it was nice to have another effective instructor to help me.”
- “Kevin was an excellent instructor. He had a tough audience at 7:30 AM but came in ready to go every day. He really went over things we had questions on and made sure we understood them well, and I think this helped me personally on tests and homework. I know he was always available, though I never took advantage of that. He also is just a really nice guy and funny, so he makes coming to class easy.”

- “This was the class I learned the most in. I like that you take time in teaching the problems, step by step, and see if we get it or not. You were prepared each class and communicate effectively.”
- “Kevin Gerstle was an excellent TA. He presented the material well and helped me greatly throughout the course. I found the review sessions he held before exams to be particularly useful...great TA. My grade was surely improved because of him.”