

1. Please comment on the section leader's knowledge and presentation of the material and how well he/she coordinated the sections with lectures.

Strengths

- One of the best TAs I've had at Stanford. Not only did he help clarify things from lecture, but helped build and extend aspects from lecture that were interesting. He helped us distinguish between more or less important topics from class. Further, he gave great examples to help explain complicated topics.
- Knew the material extremely well, and used section as a way to extend or clarify material from lectures.
- Brent did a great job of creating clear and concise PowerPoint slides that each the most important information from the week's lectures.
- Brent clearly knew the material well and was well organized in section.
- Brent did an excellent job. He was thorough and was willing to field any and all questions. He has a clear command of the material.
- Always prepared for section, provided detailed explanations, and was available to meet outside of class.
- Brent was very thorough and knowledgeable.
- I think Brent was very knowledgeable of the material and presented at an appropriate pace. I think the sections were times when he could clarify or reemphasize what Eric went over in class.
- Brent was really helpful. He was patient and explained things clearly and in a variety of ways to ensure understanding.
- Best TA I've ever had, very clear, confident in teaching subject matter. Clarified confusions that the lectures brought up.

Suggestions for Improvement

- It may have helped to review a little more Stata in the sections.
- Sometimes I felt that Brent spent too much time talking without breaks for interactive participation or without always leaving enough time for the activities.
- Sometimes, for my level of understanding, Brent explained concepts too quickly- he goes in depth but talks very rapidly or moves from one concept to the next very quickly.
- A few of us thought there wasn't clear alignment between Brent's grading expectations and Elena's- as in Brent graded harder which didn't seem fair.
- I think that STATA should have been better incorporated in section. From a friend of mine in the other section I could get information on the STATA commands we needed to produce certain graphs or functions. Brent rarely shared that with us.

2. Please comment on the section leader's effectiveness as a discussion leader, his/her ability to answer questions and keep the discussion on track.

Strengths

- He was very helpful in fielding class questions.
- Answered questions concisely and clearly, presented material in an organized and understandable manner.
- Brent's answers to questions were very clear and helpful, as were the activities he had us do to practice what we were learning.
- The sections were well run and clearly organized.
- Brent essentially went over the material from the two lectures that week and clarified questions.
- Brent could answer most questions quite well and told students when he was unclear or when he would get more information and follow up later.

Suggestions for Improvement

- n/a
- Sometimes I felt as though Brent's answers were a bit too theoretical and abstract - It would have been more helpful to have simpler, more concrete examples for his explanations of people's questions.
- I think really going through how to work on these problems and interpret outputs in STATA would have been the best way to improve the section.

1. Please comment on the section leader's knowledge and presentation of the material and how well he/she coordinated the sections with lectures.

Strengths

- Brent did a great job of building on material from lectures, responding to students' questions and areas of confusion, and making clear some of the new Stata coding techniques we learned.
- Brent was very knowledgeable with the course material, and he provided very clear answers when students asked questions.
- Strong knowledge base, did a great job connecting it to (and filling in for) gaps in the regular class

Suggestions for Improvement

- A deeper understanding of the workings of some Stata commands could be helpful

2. Please comment on the section leader's effectiveness as a discussion leader, his/her ability to answer questions and keep the discussion on track.

Strengths

- Brent did a good job of responding to questions, and was particularly effective when highlighting potential stumbling blocks within a given problem set.
- Nice job at directing the conversation

3. Please comment on the attitude of the section leader towards the students and his/her availability outside of class.

Strengths

- Brent always had a positive attitude towards the students, and he made himself available outside of class. I especially found his office hours to be very helpful.
- Great about section and office hours

Suggestions for Improvement

- Could be a bit more responsive by email

4. Please comment on the overall performance of the section leader.

Strengths

- Excellent job, Brent!
- Thanks Brent!
- Section was consistently useful, and Brent's high standards and seriousness of purpose rarely interfered with his good cheer.

- Maybe too good at keeping the discussion on track. I would have liked to see some questions answered when they were asked as opposed to "I'll get to that, if you just wait a minute."

3. Please comment on the attitude of the section leader towards the students and his/her availability outside of class.

Strengths

- Always available for meeting if needed.
- Very receptive to student questions and able to explain things on a level we all could understand.
- Brent was helpful and approachable, and he was always available after class to answer questions.
- Brent was especially good at replying to emails (even last-minute ones) with questions for problem sets/assignments!
- Brent was available outside of class, both by email and during office hours.
- Great!
- Brent was very available and helpful. He was prompt on emailing back when we had questions.
- He was accessible to students.

Suggestions for Improvement

- n/a
- Nothing

4. Please comment on the overall performance of the section leader.

Strengths

- Great section leader. I hope he becomes a professor because he's a great teacher and really engaged with the students. He helped make a complicated topic interesting and manageable.
- Great
- Brent did an excellent job at making complicated material much easier to understand. He clearly knew what he was talking about, but he was approachable and easy to talk to.
- Overall, Brent was very knowledgeable and well-prepared. I especially liked his activities as I felt that they were the most valuable part of section. I would have preferred more time trying out the concepts rather than just hearing more lecture about the material.
- I thought Brent did a great job.
- I think Brent was very effective and a good section leader.
- Very good.

Suggestions for Improvement

- n/a
- I just think that adding in more STATA could be helpful. It felt like most of our problem sets were actually grading us on our ability to use STATA and not our understanding of the material. If we understood the material theoretically and couldn't figure out how to generate a graph or different variables or functions on STATA, then we were penalized. And I also think we need to be taught how to interpret research findings we read and how valid they are. I mean, if we are taking 160 then 250B, it's not like we are the experts on statistics. Many of us will just be reading a lot of quantitative work and not actually doing a lot of statistical analysis ourselves.

1. Please comment on the section leader's knowledge and presentation of the material and how well he/she coordinated the sections with lectures.

Strengths

- Brent was a fantastic TA. He has a firm grip on the material and is great at explaining things when students are confused.
- Brent definitely tailored his section to material that he thought needed more emphasis based on how the class reacted. I felt it was very coordinated.
- Very knowledgeable. Material all presented very logically and with good explanations for people who do not have a background in statistics.
- Brent's powerpoints were excellent. He knows the content very well.
- I found section to be more valuable than the regular class. There was a good blend of lecture and time to work through problems. Brent anticipated student questions well and was prepared to explore areas of confusion and misconception.
- Very clear. Had a visibly deep understanding of the material, yet managed to present it in an easily accessible way.
- Excellent complement to Prof. Bettinger's lessons.
- Brent was great and, at times, gave more clear explanations than the professor.

2. Please comment on the section leader's effectiveness as a discussion leader, his/her ability to answer questions and keep the discussion on track.

Strengths

- Yep. Good there. Checked in with students, made sure they understood.
- Clear, stayed on task, and if he ever didn't know the answer to the question, he would find out for us.
- Brent answered questions thoughtfully and with attention to his audience. He tried to answer questions in different ways. On the few times when he didn't know the answer he got back to us via Coursework by the end of the day with an elaborated response.
- Very receptive to questions without letting the discussion range to far afield.
- Purposeful and clear.

3. Please comment on the attitude of the section leader towards the students and his/her availability outside of class.

Strengths

- Brent likes weddings more than he like section. All I can say is: Who can blame him? Weddings are awesome. In all seriousness, he was plenty available for students with questions, and made alternate plans to be available when needed.
- Very available. I was in touch with Brent several times by email with questions I had, and he always got back to me promptly with helpful answers. Very friendly and engaging.
- Very available and very positive towards us. He lingered after section and checked in with us to make sure we were OK. Always answered my email questions quickly.
- Excellent.
- Due to ARship I was not able to attend office hours, but the student with whom I worked did and Brent's explanations were always helpful (as conveyed by my study partner).
- Great.

4. Please comment on the overall performance of the section leader.

Strengths

- He is clearly the best ED 250B section leader I have ever had.
- Brent is a natural, gifted teacher.
- He will be an excellent professor some day.

- I looked forward to section each week as a place to really engage with the material and deepen my understanding. Thanks Brent.
- Very solid. Brent's section was an invaluable supplement to the lectures during the week.
- Professional and very responsible.
- Great.

Suggestions for Improvement

- I know it was just bad timing this quarter, but having some time to understand any mistakes I made on PS 3 before the final would be nice. That being said, if I really missed the boat on something, I imagine that Brent would make time to explain where I went wrong if I didn't understand the comments.

1. Please comment on the section leader's knowledge and presentation of the material and how well he/she coordinated the sections with lectures.

Strengths

- Brent seemed to know the material inside and out- a real master of the craft.
- Thanks for all your patient support, Brent!
- Great patience, wealth of knowledge, and sense of humor - a triple threat!
- Came across as super knowledgeable and clear.
- Brent was an excellent presenter and shows tons of promise for fully "owning" a course like this one day soon.
- feedback, responsiveness, adapting lessons content based on student feedback
- Excellent depth of understanding of material.
- You really knew the material, and your ability to connect easily with the heart of student questions was very valuable in keeping class coherent.

Suggestions for Improvement

- None
- Perhaps some more time could have been devoted in section to going over any questions from problem sets/ short assignments.
- Smile and enjoy it.
- name section slides with the content for reference later on
- Slow down at times: it would have been nice to spend more time on confusing topics, rather than hurrying to try to cover the planned amount of material.
- It sometimes felt that what was most important was "getting the right answer" rather than the process of wrestling to understanding.

2. Please comment on the section leader's effectiveness as a discussion leader, his/her ability to answer questions and keep the discussion on track.

Strengths

- Brent could answer any questions we threw at him--and we threw a lot. Also, he had a well-developed ability to synthesise previous lessons in a relevant way on the Powerpoint slides. he was even funny sometimes--but not too much.
- Effective balance of "staying on target" and addressing students inquiries, even when some (such as mine) were more philosophical in nature.
- Strong
- great!
- Holy cow, you were great at fielding a barrage of questions with grace, and still meeting the class objectives. I appreciated the ways you picked up from the week's lectures to clarify things, especially if they related to the hw. The hw was a cohesive arc through the course.

Suggestions for Improvement

- None
- The optional math derivations seemed to only appeal to a very small portion of the class, so perhaps they could be shared outside class to any who might be interested in them.
- none
- Consider finding ways to diversify in section. It was beleaguering to have 4.5 hours of lecture on stats in a given week, and that is often what happened. Activities that require people to work together can meet the goal of solidifying and clarifying concepts, if they are well-written. The hw questions were designed to funnel us to a "best, most correct" answer. But they were sometimes written in somewhat vague terms, and this caused confusion and frustration. Either opening the hw to more "open" sorts of questions, or narrowing the questions to match their funneling intent might help. Of course, you all solved the problem by being super available to help interpret.

3. Please comment on the attitude of the section leader towards the students and his/her availability outside of class.

Strengths

- Brent was available directly after class and during office hours. He answered every question no matter how basic. I think he made us feel like he cared about our success--but he did not lower his expectations or standards ever. High expectations, detailed feedback.
- Very available, and very willing to be certain students understood concepts before proceeding to a new topic.
- Brent was very helpful. He was available, he was open, and he was good at tailoring his level of explanation to individual students' needs.
- great!
- You made it clear you cared about us as students, and about our understanding of stats as consumers and researchers. It was heartening to see the ethical considerations given to the theory of stats.

Suggestions for Improvement

- None
- none
- Perhaps consider more the "funneling" vs. widening aspect of teaching in general. Do you want everyone, ideally, hitting the same mark, or are you interested in everyone moving significantly along a trajectory of better understanding stats?

4. Please comment on the overall performance of the section leader.

Strengths

- Overall, he was great. he really appeared to be Eric's equal in terms of the level of expertise he needed for this class.
- Overall, great job. I will never forget now that when I leave the theoretical world for the real world that is raining numbers, I must always remember to keep on my hat.
- Very good.
- great!
- Brent is a fantastic section leader and teacher.
- Compassion, grace under pressure, patience, wit, deep understanding of material, fantastic graphics, ability to weave student voice and questions into class.

Suggestions for Improvement

- None
- Grading the Stats assignments (plus adding all the helpful feedback) must have been mind-numbingly boring - the TA's should receive combat pay for this hardship.
- I wish I had more to say, but really, Brent did a great job. I am usually someone with lots of suggestions, but I don't have many.
- do not switch who grades assignments mid-course or calibrate grading so that a change in who assesses product does not result in a change in types of grades received