

## Engineering TA Evaluations

Course: MATH 1910

Semester: Fall 2021

Number of Responses: 25

Faculty Name: Pollock

TA Name: Vitor Costa

1="Never or Poor", 2="Rarely or Fair", 3="Sometimes or Satisfactory", 4="Frequently or Good", 5="Always or Excellent"

Statement	Mean	Count	1	2	3	4	5
1. My TA is approachable and responsive to individual requests for various types of support.	4.39	23	1	2	1	2	17
2. My TA provides creative and varied ways to introduce information and assess my understanding when they can.	4.29	24	1	0	4	5	14
3. My TA provides feedback/rubrics on assignments, quizzes, and/or exams.	3.81	21	2	4	1	3	11
4. My TA creates flexibility and variety in activities and assignments when they can.	4.09	23	2	2	1	5	13
5. My TA Incorporates active learning techniques (e.g., polling, think-pair-share, reflection opportunities).	3.86	22	1	2	6	3	10
6. My TA encourages me to ask questions and to express my opinions.	4.36	22	1	2	1	2	16
7. My TA provides opportunities for students to work collaboratively with one another.	4.58	24	0	2	1	2	19
8. My TA appears to be fair and unbiased when grading my assignments.	4.45	22	1	2	0	2	17
9. My TA actively maintains a welcoming and inclusive learning environment for students of all identities and backgrounds.	4.39	23	2	0	1	4	16
10. My TA asks questions that help me think about a problem and work towards a solution.	4.52	23	0	1	3	2	17
11. My TA communicates course material in a way that I can understand it.	4.13	24	2	2	1	5	14
12. My TA contributes positively towards my learning experience in this course.	4.43	23	2	0	2	1	18
13. Overall, I would rate my TA as (on a scale from 1-5 (1 being poor, 5 being great)).	4.08	25	2	2	3	3	15

14. How do you interact with this TA?	Grader	Lab	Office Hours	Section	Other
	11	3	3	21	1

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### 0. Other ways you interacted with this TA

104697: various interactions in and out of the class.

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### 1. Comment on the TA's teaching strengths as well as areas in which improvement is needed or encouraged.

103913: One strength my TA has is that they always go over problems to make sure we understand the material. Improvement is needed in the enthusiasm department.

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102917: very knowladgable in the subject and is always eager to help guide thinking or answer questions when needed

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103129: Across the board, the best TA I've had so far at Cornell. Great at explaining, super patient, very nice!

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103270: He is good at teaching and explaining the content.

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103276: His review of the material is helpful and the handouts he gives are good. He should give better homework quizzes that follow the directions on the syllabus.

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103507: Vitor always listens to the class's problems and questions and then explains the steps he takes to reach his solution. Many times after class Vitor will stay to help anyone with addition question

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103860: TA should go over solutions to all problems during class or provide solutions to worksheets.

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103973: I think he is great overall always fair and nice.

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104251: TA is very well organized and teaches recitation very well. He is very helpful with answering question and clearing up any of my misconceptions. I don't believe any change is necessary.

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104254: Approachable

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104262: A better understanding of the material being taught, to a level of not just knowing the answer but being able to explain it would be much appreciated. I think he is a very nice and well meaning person.

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104329: I think it would be helpful to have more feedback on the weekly quizzes. But in general, the section is very helpful to better understanding the course material.

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104697: Vitor Costa should not use his personal emotions and biases when teaching. he definitely discriminated against me and I simply can't do anything about it because he is the one in authority, he is my teacher, he grades my assignments, I have to see him for the entire semester.

he can improve on other ways by planning his lessons before section so he is not stuck during the section or lacks verbal interactions with us.

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104754: Seems to have a very good understanding of the material, but could use more frequent/better examples to facilitate teaching

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103548: Vitor could be higher energy when teaching, and a little more clear in his explanations.

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**2. Comment on the TA's communication strategies. Did the TA effectively use gestures, movement, voice inflection, and maintain eye contact? Was language a barrier to your understanding? If so, in what way?**

104262: Good communication

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104329: The TA communicates well to the class.

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104754: Often difficult to understand, but can have good insights.  
Mostly teaches directly off of handout -- makes the lesson easy to track, but not great for clarification on specific topics

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103270: Yes everything he did made me understand better.

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104697: Vitor Costa did not maintain eye contact with students, mainly staring at the board and rewriting and regurgitating what students were given in the handouts.

There were many times when students had to correct vitor's math or work on the board, which is totally fine however vitor would not go out of his way to ensure the lessons went smooth and efficient. Even when I would try to ask questions he would shoot me down or ignore me.

at times he would just let us work in groups and then not contribute much.

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103129: Great communication skills, you can tell he genuinely cares about helping you and listens to what you have to say!

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103276: Communication is fine.

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103318: TA uses diagrams amto illustrate material.

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103507: Vitor leads the discussion at the beginning of class and then allows for students to work in groups and provides feedback or support to each group as it's needed.

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103548: Vitor speaks kind of quietly and doesn't hold my attention very well.

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103913: My TA is very good at communicating with us and maintaining eye contact, and before every section they write their name and email on the board, encouraging further communication.

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103973: No, he spoke English perfectly even and I could understand him well.

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104251: TA has great teaching style, maintains eye contact and uses ample hand gestures to communicate thoughts.

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102917: The TA is very effective in communication using all of the above. He does have somewhat of an accent but he is pretty easy to understand.

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### 3. Do you have any additional comments?

102917: Nope! He is a great TA

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104697: After having Vitor Costa as a TA, I felt so wildly discouraged and uncomfortable to take another course at this school very honestly.

It is more so a grave, growing issue within the college of engineering and the department, in general. However, they represent the school as a whole too. vitor costa is definitely a competent, bright individual. however his teaching methods and pedagogy is majorly distorted and deluded. I was discriminated against by Vitor costa. One morning, I arrived a few minutes late to a quiz and Vitor refused to let me sit and take the quiz even though other students were taking the quiz still and we had six more minutes to take the quiz. this was one of the first weeks of school. I genuinely felt disgusted by this TA and the section. I dread going to this section because of his lack of professionalism and courtesy.

i spoke to the head professor about this experience and he very much agreed it was an oddity but he could not do much about it either.

Discussion sections are designed to foster a safe, comfortable environment for student-teacher collaboration and intellectual pursuit. Each class, there is opportunity to challenge yourself, learn, engage as a student and not be afraid to make mistakes.

i hope this evaluation has an impact and there is some change within the academic departments and more concrete instructions for clueless/lost TAs.

i am still astounded at the fact that the only actual and genuine interaction/experience i had with vitor costa was the ONE WHERE HE REFUSED ME, A FIRST-GENERATION LOW-INCOME STUDENT, THE ABILITY TO TAKE A MATH QUIZ. A QUIZ THAT I WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR. vitor costa, instead of being supportive as other TAs are, more so wanted me to fail, or at least not do well. It had confused me before, but it is clear now that he made a personal choice on emotion rather than a professional academic decision when not letting me take the quiz.

i should preface that vitor was specifically cold to me the weeks prior to the quiz he refused me. he ignored when i raised my hand. he would not talk to look at me in class. i stopped trying and even asking question because he is highly unapproachable. i cannot even put into words how terrible my experiences are with vitor.

i love learning. i have ever since as a child, but slowly TAs like vitor have extracted and lessened and essentially destroyed my love and enjoyment from learning.

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104262: No

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103973: no

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103913: No, I do not.

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103507: Vitor is a great math TA that give better understanding to the material cover in past, present, or future lectures.

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103276: On homework quizzes give problems that are actually on the homework and don't require a calculator like the course syllabus states.

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103129: Thank you, Vitor!

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