
ALLISON OLDHAM LUEDTKE

University of Virginia, Department of Economics
Website: <http://allisonoldhamluedtke.com>
Phone: (540) 905-2622 Email: alo3ja@virginia.edu

STATEMENT OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

This document provides a summary of my effectiveness as an Instructor for Intermediate Macroeconomics (Summer 2016) and as a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Microeconomics (Fall 2014, 2015, and 2016) and Introduction to Macroeconomics (Spring 2015, 2016, and 2017). I was also a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Mathematical Economics, a graduate course. However, course evaluations are not available for discussion sections in that class. The results are taken directly from teaching evaluations that are conducted anonymously at the end of each semester at the University of Virginia. I provide a basis of comparison by providing aggregate results for other introductory and intermediate classes taught in the department in the same semester. I present both statistical evaluations and open-ended student responses. In total, I present information from nineteen course evaluations: one section of Intermediate Macroeconomics, nine sections of Introduction to Microeconomics, and nine sections of Introduction to Macroeconomics.

All nineteen course evaluations are attached.

Evaluation Statistics

The following are average responses to questions, which were posed to students on teaching evaluations with answers on a 1 to 5 scale with

1: Excellent, 2: Good, 3: Okay, 4: Poor, 5: Very Poor.

Note that lower numbers indicate more positive responses.

Class	The instructor's overall effectiveness as a teacher:		The overall evaluation of the course:	
	<i>Luedtke</i>	Dept. Avg.	<i>Luedtke</i>	Dept. Avg.
Intermediate Macro (Summer 2016) ⁱⁱⁱ	1.14	1.93	1.43	1.99
Intro to Micro (Fall 2014)	1.63	1.86	1.74	1.88
Intro to Micro (Fall 2015)	1.43	1.86	1.70	1.91
Intro to Micro (Fall 2016)	1.49	1.75	1.58	1.80
Intro to Macro (Spring 2015)	1.57	1.62	1.42	1.63
Intro to Macro (Spring 2016)	1.56	1.68	1.67	1.72
Intro to Macro (Spring 2017)	1.40	1.69	1.61	1.74

Selected Comments from Student Feedback*From Econ 3020 Intermediate Macroeconomics:*

“Good teacher, very thorough and helps explain every part of the topic we are tackling. Very happy and energetic and fun to learn from.”

“Allison is awesome one of my favorite professors at UVA. Super relatable and approachable. She also makes the material very understandable.”

From Econ 2010: Introduction to Microeconomics:

“Explicitly explaining the material we were going over, making sure there was no confusion and always there when students needed help. It was very easy to make contact and/or go to office hours.”

“She was very happy and likeable TA for Economics and made learning and approaching her with questions easy.”

“Allison Oldham was a wonderful TA and made it easier to understand Economics.”

“Allison kept me alive throughout this class. The material got pretty tough and sometimes bland, but she did an awesome job keeping me into it. She is awesome!”

“She was great at explaining things, very kind and energetic, made herself very available in office hours, great at communicating over email, very knowledgeable about the subject.”

“She was extremely thorough and made everything in the book and lecture finally make sense.”

“Allison Oldham: you are the best. I hope you decide to continue teaching/ professing about the topic.”

“Allison Oldham is the best TA I’ve had at UVA! She helped me understand the material so much better than I would have on my own.”

“Her ability to always come prepared and to effectively explain all of the concepts. Also her passion for economics was definitely a strength.”

“Allison is the best TA there is. She did a great job explaining the material and made discussions worthwhile.”

“She was really good at breaking things down and making them easier to understand. She also provided alternative explanations on some topics that were also very helpful.”

“The TA instructor did an amazing job with creating discussion notes. I absolutely loved them and found them extremely useful. She was also always readily available if any of her students needed help.”

"Allison was a great TA and was very helpful. She was a great assets for the students and made the material easy to understand with great explanations."

"Allison's discussion sections were EXTREMELY helpful! And her posted notes to collab were as well!!"

"Having Allison draw the graphs on the board and work through them with us really helped me to understand the concepts behind them."

"She was very good at drawing graphs methodically and explaining concepts clearly. Her extremely organized notes that she wrote on the board as she taught helped me both to learn and to have a valuable resource to study."

"Good at teaching and being approachable and having a positive attitude. Can't think of any weaknesses."

"Allison rocked. I don't know if she has to do this again or if you make her TA something else to fulfill her grad student requirements, but she was excellent and I think more students would benefit from having her as a TA."

"Extremely organized and well prepared for each section. Explained concepts in depth and broke down each concept so it was easy to understand."

"Allison is one of the best TAs I have ever had. She did not go too fast, and clearly emphasized the things we needed to understand for the exam. Her quizzes were fair, and her approach as a teacher was to aid in the overall econ course instead of making the discussion like another class, as some TAs have done in the past. She rocks. :)"

"I hope Allison is teaching a Macro 2020 section next semester because I found her to be a very effective TA – very organized and efficient in teaching complex concepts."

From Econ 2020: Introduction to Macroeconomics:

"Allison as very personable and friendly, she accepted feedback and was clear and easy to understand."

"Allison was great at being clear and explaining the material. She also graded very fairly. The way she went over the material made it simpler and easier to grasp. Her practice questions and homeworks were not just busy work and were very helpful when time for exams."

"...my TA was funny, interesting, entertaining, informative and understanding."

"Yes, I would recommend Allison as a TA for any econ course. This discussion was easily the most helpful and useful discussion that I have had in the Econ Department"

“Allison is an incredible TA. She is knowledgeable, inviting and friendly. She made the material as simplistic as possible and took time to go over discussion and lecture material thoroughly. She was willing to work with students and was interested in catering to specific student’s learning needs. 10/10”

“My TA was really good at explaining things, and whenever she didn’t have the answer to something she always got back to us once she did, She provided lots of practice problems and highlighted important concepts and gave us easy ways to remember certain things such as AD shift factors, etc. I would highly recommend her to others and I’m glad I got to be in her discussion!”

“Allison is very engaging and clear in her teaching style. She is also extremely approachable and grades fairly.”

“discussion TA was down to earth very helpful and asked for lots of feedback”

“Allison provided very well laid-out outlines and she was very approachable.”

“Really like Allison as a TA. She was very approachable and knowledgeable and I like the way she set up her discussion section.”

“There was obvious great care in teaching the course, and I learned quite a lot.”

“Allison was a great TA. She explained the lecture material very clearly and really seemed to care about the wellbeing of her students. She went out of her way to provide us with study materials for the tests that greatly enhanced my understanding of the concepts.”

“Allison was a very helpful TA and she described complex problems in simple ways which was helpful.”

“I wish I had gone to office hours to just talk more.”

“very good TA, she knows the material 100% and is very approachable.”

ⁱ The Summer Session course evaluations use a reverse scale, so the results from this course have been scaled to match the scale used in the Fall and Spring results. That is, the results for Summer 2016 were on a scale 1: Very Poor ... 5: Excellent and so were subtracted from 6 to be easily comparable to the other results.

ⁱⁱ I used “Overall this was a worthwhile course” as a proxy for “Overall evaluation of the course” for this course because the latter question is not asked on course evaluations of summer session courses.