



Instructional Assistant Student Evaluation of Teaching for Idaliya Grigoryeva School of Global Policy and Strategy

GPEC 443 - GIS & Spatial Data Analysis (McCord, Gordon Carlos)
Fall 2025

Number of Evaluations Submitted: 38
Number of Students Enrolled: 112

1. The Instructional Assistant used instructional methods in section and/or office hours that helped me learn and engage with the course material.

31 (83.8%): Strongly Agree
6 (16.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

2. The sections led by this Instructional Assistant were well-coordinated with other components of this class (e.g., lecture, lab, assignments, etc.).

34 (89.5%): Strongly Agree
3 (7.9%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (2.6%): Not Applicable

3. The Instructional Assistant communicated effectively.

33 (86.8%): Strongly Agree
5 (13.2%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

4. The Instructional Assistant provided constructive feedback on my work.

27 (73.0%): Strongly Agree
5 (13.5%): Agree
1 (2.7%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
4 (10.8%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

5. The Instructional Assistant created a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

34 (89.5%): Strongly Agree
4 (10.5%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
0 (0.0%): Not Applicable

6. The Instructional Assistant generally began and ended section/lab/office hours on time.

30 (78.9%): Strongly Agree
7 (18.4%): Agree
0 (0.0%): Neither Agree Nor Disagree
0 (0.0%): Disagree
0 (0.0%): Strongly Disagree
1 (2.6%): Not Applicable

7. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that created or interfered with a welcoming and supportive learning environment.

- Always patient with us. Explained the material clearly.
- AMAZING TA. THE BEST TA I HAVE EVER HAD. Responds promptly to email, is kind, knowledgeable, understanding, patient. She helped me any time I got stuck or needed clarity. She is very good at using QGIS and knows a lot about it. She's very efficient too; if you have a problem or point of confusion, she listens intently and answers effectively. Highly recommend and give praise to Ida.
- Even the brief times that I interacted with this TA, she gave me a wealth of information and knowledge that helped me tremendously. In fact, when I first met her, I thought she was already a professor, that's how professional and engaging she was. She is an extremely effective teacher.
- Great job supporting in labs and on assignments! Really thorough and informative.
- Ida is incredibly knowledgeable and warm. She really does have an incredible grasp of the material and made learning easier, at least for me.
- Ida is very helpful as a TA; her explanations are clear and easy to understand.

- Ida provides support and feedback in a kind and direct way.
- Ida spoke very clearly during office hours, was open to questions, and created a supportive learning environment.
- Ida was always welcoming. She always encouraged students to attend the TA sessions and ask questions. In addition, if there were times in which the student wasn't able to come to office hours or TA sessions for that week, she would be accommodating to find a time that would work best for both of them.
- Ida was friendly and kind :)
- Put up individual office hours to give us direct feedback about our projects
- She was always very nice and willing to offer her time and help.
- She was extremely helpful during the Lab I attended. She was able to facilitate the learning environment and took charge of the room very well.
- Yes, she was amazing and constantly welcomed questions. She would always devote time to help individually, which created a good space for learning and troubleshooting the material.
- Yes. Ida made the classroom environment a safe place to ask questions and learn.

8. Please describe any practices that the Instructional Assistant specifically used that particularly helped you to learn the material and/or encouraged you to feel that you could succeed in the course.

- Any problem you asked her to help with, she somehow always had an answer. She always gave suggestions for improvement that was doable and gave you confidence to move forward.
- Coming to office hours. I think attending the TA session wasn't as helpful as I thought it would be in helping me succeed in the course. However, attending each TA's office hours was definitely beneficial. Overall, Ida was a lovely person and always very accommodating.
- helped break down complex topics well. Really enjoyed the one-on-one support.
- Her office hours are very helpful, especially for feedback and help with labs.
- Her teaching style was very engaging.
- I came into this class very nervous, and I doubted my ability to succeed. Ida was one of the first people to make me feel like I can actually do GIS. She made me feel smart in a way I didn't feel about myself before.
- I like the fact that she did like a mini 10 min lecture or advice at the beginning of the class, it's usually very helpful.
- Ida is probably the best teaching assistant I have ever had. Not only very extremely clear and effective in assisting students acquiring a new skill, but also does it with enthusiasm and sheer commitment to her role. She approaches teaching with modesty and compassion that helps students believe that they can advance.
- She explains things very well and shows interest in your project when providing suggestions.
- She helped me with learning R. We did not use the R studio at Rady so she was able to help me with my questions.

- She made everything seem achievable! Some of these assignments just felt overwhelming at times, so I was grateful for her patience and advise to take it all one part at a time!
- She remembered about my progress in my work so she was familiar with my work already when I needed to reach out again for help
- TA sessions were very well coordinated with the rest of the class. Ida did an excellent job balancing presenting information and giving us the opportunity for us to navigate the lab assignments ourselves. She provided very helpful feedback on the individual project and was very helpful in answering questions!
- Very clear, effective teaching. She was also extremely helpful one-on-one for my final project.
- Was happy to help people individually if they needed help and gave us dedicated time to work on our most important projects.
- Yes, she had a very warm vibe to her that created the best TA section of all, in my opinion.

9. Please offer constructive suggestions that might help the Instructional Assistant improve their contribution to your learning of the course material.

- I think scheduling time during their office hours would be great because sometimes students may all come at once, and they may take too long to ask their questions. Under this first-come, first-served policy, not all TAs may be able to meet all students' needs. In that regard, what I found helpful was that, when discussing times for the final project discussion, IDA would send an Excel document weeks in advance so that students who wanted to discuss their final projects could sign up for the 10-minute allotment. Professor McCord, in the same regard, did the same thing. That said, I think it would be highly beneficial to try to recreate this organization for office hours sometime next year.
- No comment, her section was perfect as is.
- No notes!
- No suggestion, amazing TA.
- no thoughts here, you did a gerat job!
- Personally, I do not love independent work time and would love for more time to be instructional. Ida really is brilliant so it would be nice to see her in work flow more.
- This is not really a criticism, but I wish Ida's session was earlier in the afternoon because the traffic after 4:30 is crazy.

10. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with this Instructional Assistant?

- Honestly, one of the best TAs I've ever had.
- I highly recommend her! And hope I have her as a TA again
- I really appreciate having Ida as the TA for GIS; she's really amazing. I hope to have her again for the subsequent GIS class next quarter.

- Ida did a fantastic job in guiding me through GIS theories and practices. I feel like I really learned a lot from the TA sessions, as compared to the sessions with the professor. Ida has always been kind and extremely helpful with me as I was struggling with different assignments. I would love to take another course with Ida being a TA.
- Ida is excellent. I really wish she was going to TA for the next two GIS courses in the series. I learned so much from her. She is kind and patient, and enthusiastic to help in any way she can. She took so much time out of her personal schedule to meet with any student in need of assistance. Students who attended other Lab sessions ended up switching to her lab due to word of mouth of her being the best teacher. I was one of those students. Students from other labs also ended up booking one-on-one sessions with her to help with their final. Ida should TA for this class for the foreseeable future.
- Ida is genuinely the best TA I've ever had.
- IDA is very smart, and she is a lovely person! She deserves all the good things in this world for listening to me while stressed about the class. She would always be encouraging and having that positive attitude definitely helps quite a lot.
- Nope, she's the best!
- Thank you!
- Thank you, Ida!

11. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?

11 (18.6%):	Major/Program Requirement
1 (1.7%):	Minor
0 (0.0%):	College General Education
19 (32.2%):	Elective
20 (33.9%):	Interest
0 (0.0%):	American History and Institutions (AHI) Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Undergraduate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Requirement (DEI) Requirement
1 (1.7%):	Jane Teranes Climate Change Education Requirement (JTCCER)
7 (11.9%):	Graduate Program Requirement
0 (0.0%):	Other

12. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **IN THE SECTION?**

17 (44.7%):	Frequently
12 (31.6%):	Sometimes
7 (18.4%):	Seldom
1 (2.6%):	Never
1 (2.6%):	Not Applicable

13. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **DURING OFFICE HOURS** ?

8 (21.1%): Frequently
15 (39.5%): Sometimes
7 (18.4%): Seldom
6 (15.8%): Never
2 (5.3%): Not Applicable

14. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA EMAIL?**

6 (15.8%): Frequently
9 (23.7%): Sometimes
11 (28.9%): Seldom
10 (26.3%): Never
2 (5.3%): Not Applicable

15. How frequently did you interact with the Instructional Assistant **VIA THE COURSE DISCUSSION BOARD?**

3 (8.1%): Frequently
3 (8.1%): Sometimes
2 (5.4%): Seldom
15 (40.5%): Never
14 (37.8%): Not Applicable
1: [No Response]

16. How often did you receive feedback from this instructional assistant on assignments/exams/papers?

9 (23.7%): Frequently
13 (34.2%): Sometimes
5 (13.2%): Seldom
3 (7.9%): Never
8 (21.1%): Not Applicable

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