

# David Offner

## Positive comments from students

*The following comments were written by Carnegie Mellon students on university-administered evaluations of my teaching in courses I taught or TAed.*

He should definitely go into teaching. He's very good at explaining topics in many different ways so that people can understand the information.

Instructor was VERY well versed in the subject, and able to present learning material using many different examples and from several perspectives. Further, instructor was very accessible for office hours on a DAILY basis. Given the choice, I would recommend the instructor to future students of this course.

He's good at explaining the concepts involved.

He has respect for students, cares about what students learn.

He has been very helpful overall. Continue everything you do.

He explains concepts well.

I think he's very good at detailing some of the concepts that were harder to grasp. And clarifying the homework problems was a lifesaver.

His explanations are very clear and he makes sure everyone knows what's going on.

Learning everyone's name was a strong point.

Really knows the material and able to explain it thoroughly.

The logical explanations were very helpful (conceptual).

He's interactive, witty, and genuinely cares about whether or not we understand the material. He focuses on fundamentals that help us grasp the bigger picture.

Always ready to answer any question. Thorough explanations.

The strong point is his knowledge. He knows everything about the subject (or so it seems) and I know that if I spend enough time with him, I could learn anything about any one topic.

Mr. Offner is very approachable, helpful, funny and well-versed in the material.

He's very clear and accommodating for office hours, very flexible, and makes a point to understand why we don't understand. He obviously knows the material well and encourages us as well. He knows every one of our names.

He is doing a good job teaching the material. He does good examples in class and helps us in the homework without directly giving us the answer.

Explains the solution to problems very well. Easy to get help from.

He was able to present the ideas from lecture concisely, and much easier to understand.

He is well-organized and addressed homework issues well.

You have a very good understanding of the material.

He is clear and takes care that everyone understands the basic concepts.

He explains problems thoroughly and introduces concepts several different ways when students are confused. He's also enthusiastic about the subject.

Excellent TA.

Easy to understand, doesn't usually complicate things.

His consistency is a plus—it's fairly easy to adjust to his style and understand his points. Straightforward, to the point—keeps things concise so nothing is overdone and leaves enough time to cover topics.

Spends lots of time on students questions and making sure we're comfortable with current material before we move on. Pointing out different questions and concepts we might not have fully understood.

Manages time effectively, good pace of class, open, interesting. He is a very good TA. Explaining what we were doing visually really helped. Also, going over the procedure to solve a problem was very helpful, even if you did attend lecture.

Examples helped to solidify concepts, provided valuable assistance for homework and tests. Grading is fair, accurate, and speedy.

Very knowledgeable, good explanations.

Clear and concise presentation of material.

He tries to start from the basics and uses good starting examples to convey his point. He is always willing to answer questions.

The free structure of the recitation and the willingness of the TA to discuss any class-related topic allowed for more productive recitations focusing on student problems.

You explain things so well. It's so nice to have things explained in a way that we understand...you put everything together well. You made it easy to ask questions, and everything you've helped me with I understand very well.

Provides good explanations of how a problem is solved and why he chose that method.

He gives many examples of problems in recitation and also reteaches key concepts in the course. He is always willing to do additional problems.

Good at explaining things, knows what he is doing without referencing the textbook.

A lot of concepts are cleared up in recitation. The example problems we discuss are very useful for exams.

He gets our feedback on what we need to talk about instead of just talking.

Very helpful, made class comfortable.

Very knowledgeable, strong enthusiasm, friendly personality, takes it very seriously, very dedicated to helping students.

Knowledge of the subject is excellent. Answers questions well.

Consistent, clear, systematic, good explanations. Really great recitation—incredibly helpful. Please continue to teach so well and be invested in your work and ours. It was much appreciated. Thanks for a great semester!

You're really good about explaining things until we actually understand (good patience) and I liked that you encouraged us to ask questions and were readily available during office hours.

He was very good about returning homework quickly. He was also good when I went to his office hours, it was very helpful. He always made sure that we understood what

he was talking about, even if that meant explaining it in more than one way.

Great patience and knowledge of the material. Returned assignments on time.

Very good examples. Great explanations.

He understood the material very well. Teaching it came easy for him.

He clearly and concisely presented a wide range of examples for us to learn from.

He gave good examples and problems similar to homework that were very helpful.

Good, clear examples. Described thoroughly so as to ensure understanding of the material.

Good overall. Effective teacher.

Tried to get class involved. Good job answering questions.

He made examples clear and went slowly, so students would not miss a step.

He encourages questions.

He performs good examples that highlight the important parts of what we are learning.

Uses good examples to illustrate points.

Able to explain the concepts well and communicate them well to the class.

I like that you work through the problems and sometimes get stuck because that is what happens to me and it is good to see and learn what to do in that situation. Other TAs just speed through problems and I miss the little things that cause problems on tests.

Very helpful in understanding concepts.

Friendly, explains questions well.

Very clear on the concepts and how they work. Can provide different explanations to help understand. Provides complementary information helping to appreciate the topic further.

Excellent explanations, makes material very understandable.

Knowledgable.

Very helpful—answers all questions, and if he doesn't know something at the time, he looks it up outside of class and tells us later. Great teacher.

TA had no problem teaching. In fact, I learned everything in recitation.

I enjoy how he has ideas and observations he comes across that are important to know.

Conciseness and clarity in explaining difficult concepts.

Offner taught us very well, often giving good examples in addition to general proofs.

He gives good explanations of the concepts.

Uses examples and explains concepts well.

Good explanations of all problems. Good time management. Allows students to solve problems on board. Very helpful office hours.

He had a good understanding of the materials and tried to teach from the student's point of view.

Very helpful—always covered what was most helpful. Answered questions and showed alternative ways of thinking about things that we didn't get in lecture.

Strong understanding of material and good alternative explanations/examples of difficult concepts.

The absolute height of the TA experience is Dave Offner. Everything he did was perfect. Thanks, Dave.

He often gives extra explanation (usually with different examples or the “why” of the concepts) of concepts discussed in lecture.

He always has concrete ways of explaining things that are abstract. He is able to dissect the material and explain it clearly and concisely.

He goes through examples slow enough for us to understand the concepts. He encour-

ages us to participate when going over the homework. He asks for our suggestions of what to do, but is prepared with his own examples. Great job!