

Fall, 2019

Instructor of Record

Contemporary Western Civilization

CC 1101

21 students, taught in twice-weekly seminar sessions (4 hours total/week)

12 students completed written evaluations

Overall effectiveness of instructor

7 “Excellent” | 4 “Very good” | 1 “Good”

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “GREAT! She is super understanding, a fair grader, and is **very open to questions and new methods of teaching to accommodate for all students.**”
- “Caroline Marris was a very effective instructor in her grasp of course material and knowledgeability on its background. As mentioned earlier, the amount of historical content could be shortened, but it still remained valuable and made students appreciate Caroline’s passion for the course.”
- “Gave very good feedback and led interesting class discussions. Offered extra credit which was very nice and was always available for office hours or help. Gave interesting historical overview at the beginning of the class and also **listened well to feedback.**”
- “I enjoyed the way Caroline spoke on and responded to certain topics throughout the class. She put honest comments into grading papers and **made herself extremely available to reach by email, in person, or over Skype, which I found very genuine of her.** Also, whenever I had a personal issue with the content of the material in class, I was able to bring it up to her and she would do her best to accommodate.”
- “Caroline is, to me, the perfect professor of these topics...**she’s enthusiastic about most books and encourages students to think about them independently.** I also have to say that her love of history makes the class much more bearable for me since I also enjoy the topic and her discussions about it.”
- “She is very intelligent and **had a lot of interesting context to add.** She was good at starting discussions and was overall a really great instructor.”

Spring, 2019

Instructor of Record

Contemporary Western Civilization

CC 1102

21 students, taught in twice-weekly seminar sessions (4 hours total/week)

12 students completed written evaluations

Overall effectiveness of instructor

8 “Excellent” | 2 “Very good” | 2 “Good”

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “Caroline is a phenomenal instructor. During our session, she finds the **perfect balance of group-based activity, lecture for context on the work, and full class discussion**. She is enthusiastic about each and every text as well as **extremely reasonable and clear about her expectations**. She grades most all assignments within a week of submission. Never did I feel the classroom environment to be hostile to my perspective or contributions. I would recommend her section to any future CC student.”
- “Caroline is good at giving us historical background on the works...Caroline is very open to meeting students outside of class.”
- “Caroline is awesome. She is well organized and good at leading discussions. Her **reading guides are actually incredible and clearly shows how much time she puts into our classes** which is really motivating as a student. She always returned assignments and was **super transparent about her grading timelines** which was super helpful.”
- “Caroline was a great instructor. She facilitated instruction well by continuously posing interesting and transformative questions during our sessions regarding our texts. **She did not tip-toe around the large issues of the text**; she instead made sure that everyone left each session knowing at a minimum the core arguments of each text...Caroline strongly cared about how students felt in the course and was **willing to accommodate for students’ personal needs**, which was above and beyond my expectations for any professor.”
- “She cares about our well-being and learning very much, and also really **gives us credit and believes in us to have advanced discussions**, all of which is clear from how she structures the class and treats us as students (I really like how she handled the complex issue of using certain words from our texts that could be offensive to students). A very approachable, kind, caring teacher!”
- “Fantastic instructor! No complaints. I appreciate the historical context to each author and guiding questions.”
- “She has been one of the best professors I have had at Columbia.”
- “My instructor is considerate, knowledgeable, and openhanded. She **allows us to express our ideas in a comfortable environment**. The discussions are always engaging and I feel as though I am learning from my peers almost as much as I am learning from my instructor and the readings. Honestly she is one of the best instructors I have had at Columbia.”

Fall, 2018

Instructor of Record

Contemporary Western Civilization

CC 1101

21 students, taught in twice-weekly seminar sessions (4 hours total/week)

16 students completed written evaluations

Overall effectiveness of instructor

7 “Excellent” | 2 “Very good” | 7 “Good”

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “Reading guides are very helpful in picking out what is important in a text and as an outline to class discussion. Very kind teacher and fair grader.”
- “Caroline is a fantastic instructor who is **always open to feedback and is incredibly accessible. She sets clear and realistic expectations for the class and its assignments.** Feedback is always timely and worthwhile. Caroline also strikes a wonderful balance between background and discussion, always trying her hardest to incorporate relevant activities during class time. You can tell she really enjoys what she is teaching, which reflects incredibly well on the entire class.”
- “Professor Marris’ classes were always engaging and interesting. I enjoyed our discussions thoroughly, and I think she did a fantastic job at teasing out the important parts of each text...Given the amount of content we had to consume in the semester, Professor Marris allowed us to get as much out of these texts as one could in ~2 hours.”
- “Caroline is very knowledgeable in the histories.”
- “Caroline has been an amazing instructor; she is **extremely thoughtful and thorough in her comments after we have made a point.** She also makes reading guides to lead us through the readings as we read at home.”
- “Caroline is an engaging instructor with lots to say always. She loves when we have interesting things to say and often builds on it. She is able to facilitate discussion well.”
- “As a first year instructor for this course, I think Caroline did a fabulous job. I could tell she was really passionate and tried her best. She was **very approachable if we had any questions and tried to incorporate people’s suggestions into her lectures.** I appreciate that she prefaced each class with historical background, and I think we had productive discussions. I also really appreciate the extra credit opportunity.”
- “She was a good lecturer and was always accommodating in regards to office hours.”
- “Caroline is great. She knows a lot about history, and her interesting facts about the authors really livens up class. You can tell she cares about her students and makes time for anyone who needs it. **She’s not an easy grader but definitely fair, as well her exams are challenging but if you study and pay attention in class you will do well.**”

Spring, 2017

Teaching Assistant

Russian History Pre-1800

Prof. Catherine Evtuhov

HIST UN 2214

11 students, taught in two sections every 2/3 weeks

9 students completed written evaluations

TA presents material clearly	7/9 “Agree strongly” 2/9 “Agree”
TA encourages student learning	8/9 “Agree strongly” 1/9 “Agree”
Section time is used productively	8/9 “Agree strongly” 1/9 “Agree”
TA provided helpful comments on written work	6/9 “Agree strongly” 3/9 “Agree”
TA was available outside of class	8/9 “Agree strongly” 1/9 no answer given
Overall rating for TA	8/9 “Excellent” 1/9 no answer given

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “Caroline was **very prepared constantly**. Furthermore, additional research was done very quickly to answer any additional questions that came up and additional reading materials or sources suggestions were very well-thought of and provided. It’s clear she loves this and is very good at it and I only have great things to say.”
- “Caroline definitely **makes sure we feel comfortable participating** and encourages us along with guided questions.”
- “Caroline balanced conversation and instruction very well. She shows a strong understanding of the material.”
- “Her review sessions were very helpful especially the timeline review!”
- “I always feel like **section helped crystallize and clarify my thoughts.**”
- “She explained concepts and answered questions phenomenally.”
- “Caroline is an easy person to talk to that connected many topics thematically.”
- “Review sessions were extremely helpful as I know exactly how to prepare for midterms and essay (considering I am not a history major student).”

Fall, 2016

Teaching Assistant

European History 1500-1789

Prof. Samuel Biagetti

HIST X 1101

Delivered two 60-minute lectures: 1) 'State-Building Struggles: France in the 17th Century' and 2) 'The Enlightenment'

40 students, taught in 3 weekly sections

38 students completed written evaluations (1 illegible)

TA presents material clearly "Agree"	27/37 "Agree strongly"	10/37
TA encourages student learning "Agree"	24/37 "Agree strongly"	13/37
Section time is used productively "Agree"	22/37 "Agree strongly"	15/37
TA provided helpful comments on written work	16/37 "Agree strongly" 2/37 "Disagree" 3/37 no answer	15/37 "Agree" 1/37 "No opinion"
TA was available outside of class	21/37 "Agree strongly" 2/37 "No opinion"	12/37 "Agree" 2/37 no answer
Overall rating for TA	31/37 "Excellent" 2/37 "Good"	3/37 "Very Good" 2/37 no answer

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- "Caroline, by far, has been the best TA I have had at Columbia and sincerely hope she pursues teaching."
- "Caroline **fosters a great learning environment. She is patient and kind and helped us to link the various complicated connections together.** 15/10 would recommend."
- "Always had a really strong grasp on the content of readings and could guide the conversation well."
- "She was very open and worked with everyone's points. She **encouraged everyone to participate to matter how minor the comment.**"
- "Everyone is encouraged to participate. Caroline asks good questions to prompt discussions. Love her!"
- "She is very passionate about history."

- “This discussion section was very open. Caroline was great at leading us to connect the various themes and documents of the course. Sometimes discussion lagged and people were silent, but Caroline did a fine job managing it.”
- “Discussions were always on topic. The activity of connecting music to what we were talking about gave us a good sense of aspects of culture.”
- “My TA was always **extremely clear and answer all my questions**, and clarified anything that was unclear in lecture.”
- “She was good at asking what the class needed and wanted out of section and followed through on it.”
- “She was **approachable and clearly stated the expectations.**”
- “Very accommodating and thorough.”
- “Nice, approachable, and knowledgeable.”
- “The TA was always well-prepared, with lots of energy and passion for the subject.”
- “What we discussed was helpful in retaining the information gone over in class.”
- “Very knowledgeable and always came prepared.”
- “[What I liked most about the TA] Her personality, approachability, and clearly vested interest in the course material.”
- “I felt very comfortable participating, and Caroline always encouraged us to think about the bigger picture.”
- “Always encouraged conversation and presented ideas in an interesting and engaging manner.”
- “She connected texts to each other from different weeks and constantly referenced the lecture.”
- “The discussions were always on point and very inspiring.”
- “She was **organized and there was never a pointless discussion.**”
- “Caroline was personable, helpful, always available and professional.”
- “I liked how she fostered discussion in class, and I think that was most helpful in respect to quizzes.”
- “She was great at answering questions, and when we talked about texts she really helped clarify complex concepts.”
- “Caroline made participating very easy. It was **a nice environment that fostered learning and participation.**”
- “I liked that Caroline was super friendly and helpful. The section was not stressful, and very open to discussion.”

Spring, 2016

Teaching Assistant

European History Since 1789

Prof. Deborah Coen

HIST X 1302

Delivered one 60-minute lecture: ‘Causes of World War II’

17 students, taught in 1 section every 2/3 weeks

16 students completed written evaluations (1 illegible)

TA presents material clearly	13/15 “Agree strongly”	2/15 “Agree”
TA encourages student learning	12/15 “Agree strongly”	3/15 “Agree”
Section time is used productively	8/15 “Agree strongly”	7/15 “Agree”
TA provided helpful comments on written work	8/15 “Agree strongly” 1/15 “No opinion”	5/15 “Agree” 1/15 no answer
TA was available outside of class	7/15 “Agree strongly” 1/15 “No opinion”	5/15 “Agree” 2/15 no answer
Overall rating for TA	10/15 “Excellent” 2/15 no answer	3/15 “Very Good”

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “Caroline was absolutely phenomenal. Her knowledge and ability to teach is a breath of fresh air. **She truly cares and this is projected.**”
- “Caroline was always open to hear different [points of] view. **She has a very positive attitude which makes expression of ideas more comfortable.**”
- “She clearly spent a lot of time preparing what she’d go over and helpfully answered questions. She’s a sweetheart and clearly cares about helping students.”
- “Very well prepared with a clear idea of what we would go over but **flexibility to go where the class needed.**”
- “I got good comments/feedback when I met with her that helped me write the paper.”
- “I felt like I could always participate. Conversation felt like it flowed naturally.”
- “Really helpful and supportive, explained material really well.”
- “Caroline is very prepared and knowledgeable of the material and is able to explain concepts and answer questions well.”
- “The TA was very friendly and **created a comfortable learning environment.**”
- “She brought humor to the lectures 😊”
- “Section was the best part of the class.”

Spring, 2015

Teaching Assistant
Early Modern France
 Prof. Charly Coleman
 HIST W 3353

11 students, taught in 1 weekly section
 8 students completed written evaluations (1 illegible)

TA presents material clearly	4/7 “Agree strongly” 3/7 “Agree”
TA encourages student learning	5/7 “Agree strongly” 2/7 “Agree”
Section time is used productively	3/7 “Agree strongly” 4/7 “Agree”
TA provided helpful comments on written work	4/7 “Agree strongly” 2/7 “Agree” 1/7 no answer
TA was available outside of class	4/7 “Agree strongly” 1/7 “Agree” 1/7 “No opinion” 1/7 no answer
Overall rating for TA	5/7 “Excellent” 1/7 “Very Good” 1/7 no answer

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- “Caroline always came prepared with a lesson plan and had ideas of where she wanted to take our discussion of the texts. She was **very clear and helpful, and if she couldn’t answer a question completely, she would suggest other sources to consult.**”
- “Caroline draws out clearly organized structures for us, so I could have some useful notes when I’m reviewing for exams.”
- “Caroline was very well prepared to explain concepts and readings and connect them to each other. **Very approachable and engaging.**”
- “She gives a lot of good feedback and always seems very enthusiastic and encouraging.”
- “She did an **excellent job at encouraging participation.**”
- “She is very friendly, very welcoming.”

Fall, 2014

Teaching Assistant

European History 1500-1789

Prof. Deborah Valenze

HIST X 1101

Delivered one 75-minute lecture: 'Early Modern State Formation'

28 students, taught in 2 sections every 2/3 weeks

19 students completed written evaluations (1 illegible)

TA presents material clearly	14/18 "Agree strongly" 4/18 "Agree"
TA encourages student learning	15/18 "Agree strongly" 3/18 "Agree"
Section time is used productively	13/18 "Agree strongly" 5/18 "Agree"
TA provided helpful comments on written work	8/18 "Agree strongly" 9/18 "Agree" 1/18 no answer
TA was available outside of class	11/18 "Agree strongly" 5/18 "Agree" 2/18 no answer
Overall rating for TA	13/18 "Excellent" 3/18 "Very Good" 2/18 no answer

Selected comments (full evaluations available)

- "Caroline was always extremely well prepared for section. She had all the time planned with interesting activities to get the discussion going and to lead us to critical themes discussed in class. **She was very calm and understanding and considering of our answers.**"
- "Caroline was always well prepared and informative in section. She answered questions and [illegible] discussion. She was truly one of the best TAs I've ever had. She **fostered a comfortable and mentally challenging learning environment.**"
- "Caroline was a great TA! Even one of the best I've ever had! She explained everything clearly and was able to foster a good discussion among the students each time. She also added little interesting facts that made the content a little more humorous, yet interesting."
- "Caroline had great introductory exercises and facilitated questions & comments very effectively. **I felt really comfortable participating.**"
- "Good questions that inspired thought, mapping out ideas. I gained a much better understanding of our texts. She was extremely prepared for each class, brought up original ideas, encouraged and responded to our responses."

- **“The activities were very useful especially when incorporating outside sources such as museums and music.** She helped me understand what to incorporate within each essay & what is relevant.”
- “Caroline was extremely knowledgeable on everything we discussed and created a very dynamic discussion. She also incorporated her own exercises into the discussion that were helpful.”
- **“The feedback on my Renaissance paper was very helpful and helped me to improve my structure/balance of historical background and analysis.”**
- “Very willing to go through anything you were having trouble with, & always made time to speak with students. Discussion was always good & I felt like I could always state my opinion.”
- “My TA brought in more resources and information related to our studies and connected all of our readings throughout the semester.”
- “I loved everything about Caroline. She was very enthusiastic and considerate of all opinions.”
- **“She asked open-ended questions to foster discussion and was patient for answers.”**
- “I always learned something important about the subject by the end of every section.”
- “Encourages everyone to participate in discussion. Helpful & available.”
- “She was knowledgeable and really encouraging.”
- **“She was extremely helpful and present.”**
- “Caroline is great and always so helpful.”
- “Very prepared for section.”