Introduction to Statistics – Student Feedback

Which lab group did you attend?
9 responses

- Group 4
- Group 6

55.6%
44.4%
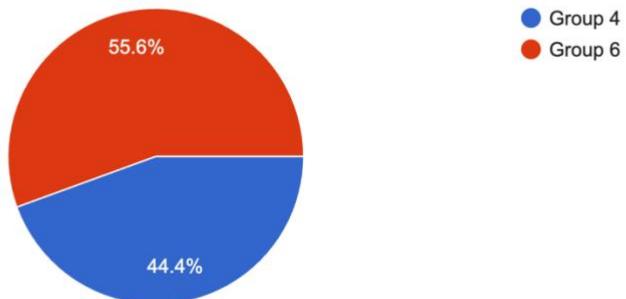
The labs improved my understanding of statistics.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

55.6%
44.4%

The labs improved my understanding of the statistical software R.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

66.7%
33.3%
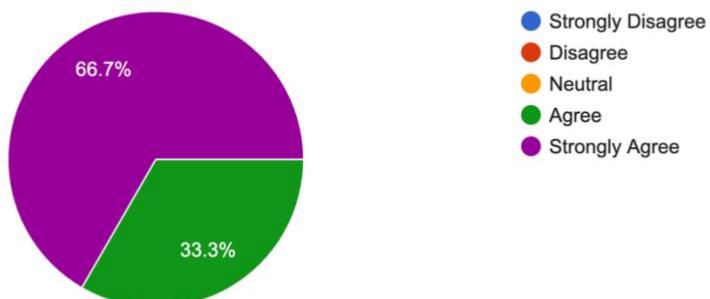
The labs were relevant to the content of the lecture.
9 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

66.7%
11.1%
22.2%
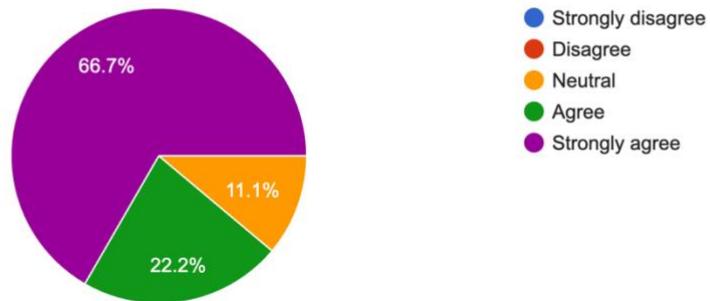
The material provided (handouts, R code, additional material) was useful.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

66.7%
33.3%
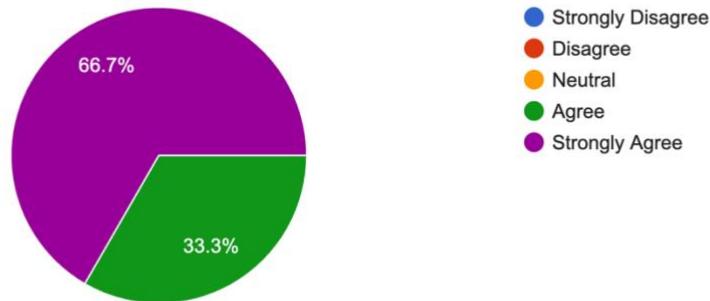
I felt comfortable asking questions in the labs.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

77.8%
11.1%
11.1%
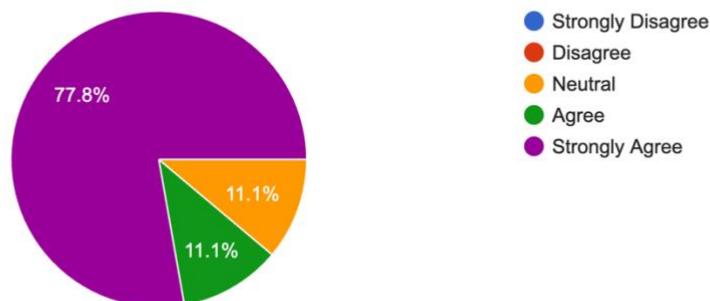
How would you characterise the lab sessions?

9 responses

- Generally too difficult to follow
- Sometimes too difficult to follow
- About the right level of difficulty
- Sometimes too elementary
- Generally too elementary

33.3%
66.7%
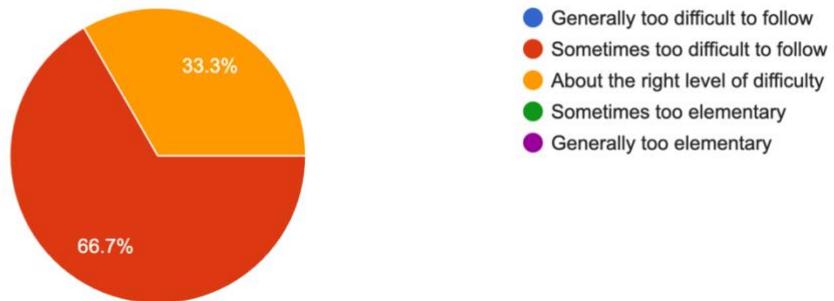
The labs made me more confident in interpreting and employing quantitative methods in my studies.

9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

11.1%
88.9%
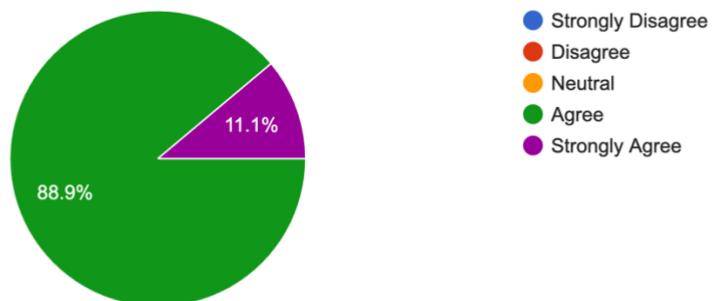
The Teaching Assistant explained the concepts covered in the lab clearly.

9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

55.6%
44.4%
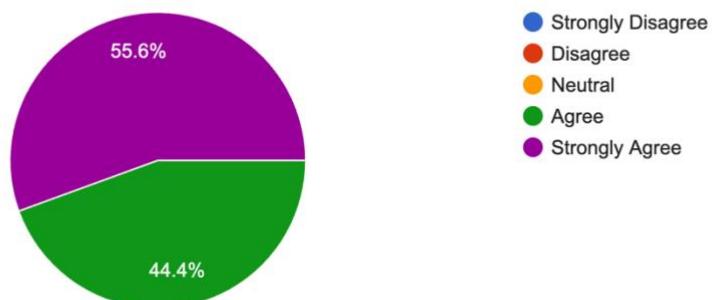
The Teaching Assistant explained the R syntax used in the lab clearly.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

44.4%
11.1%
44.4%
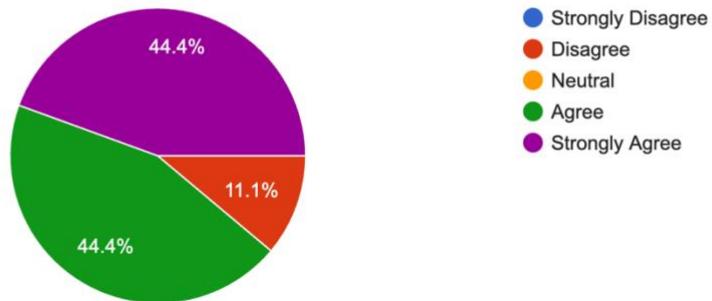
The Teaching Assistant was generally prepared for the weekly topic.
9 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

88.9%
11.1%
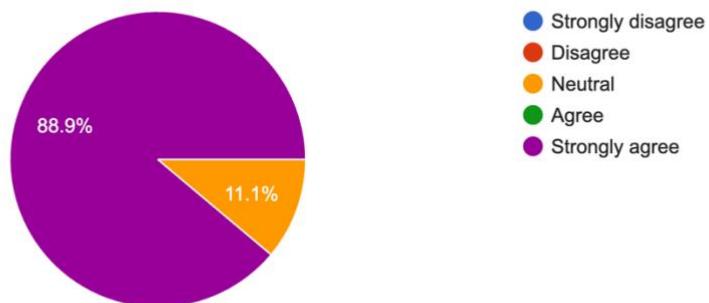
The Teaching Assistant provided helpful clarifications when asked questions.
9 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

77.8%
22.2%
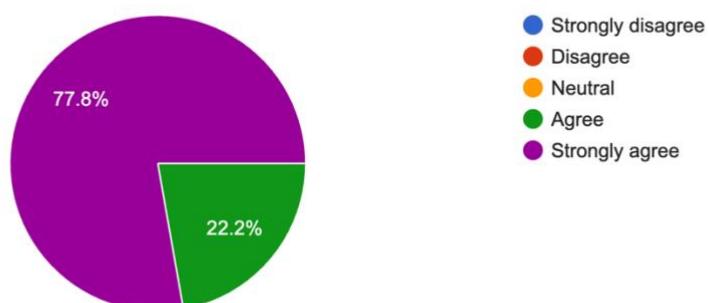
The Teaching Assistant engaged the class in the lab.
9 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

77.8%
22.2%
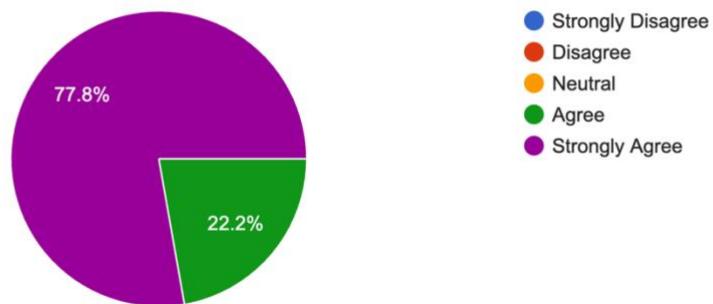
How accessible was your Teaching Assistant?
9 responses
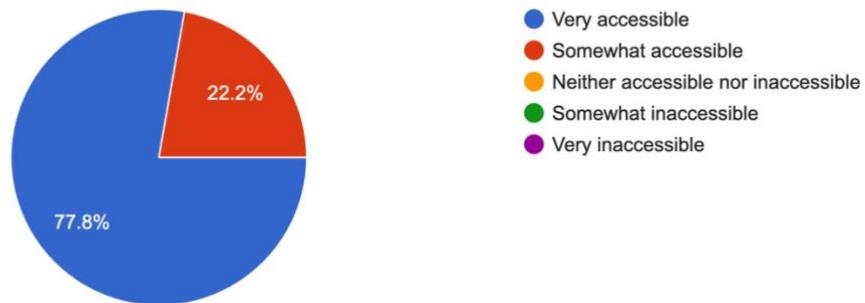
- Very accessible
- Somewhat accessible
- Neither accessible nor inaccessible
- Somewhat inaccessible
- Very inaccessible

22.2%
77.8%

What aspects of the labs did you enjoy? (9 responses)

- o Going over the R code
- o The quality of the teaching material/handouts.
- o How at ease with R the lab has made me feel. Learning about alternative approaches (e.g. by installing additional packages) to the same task at hand was very helpful.
- o Leo was a great TA, he worked hard to make us understand the material as much as possible.
- o My lab instructor was always so enthusiastic and made learning R fun.
- o The small group sessions made it possible to study R in more detail.
- o The TA was very helpful if there was ever an issue with your R cloud script and was very happy to answer questions
- o The handouts were incredibly helpful! Leo overall did a great job!
- o It was really interesting to work with data sets from existing papers, and get a more intuitive sense of how that data helped the scholar create their argument.

What aspects of the labs didn't work for you? Do you have any suggestions for how the Labs can be improved? (9 responses)

o Only teach the material that is useful. Understanding the process is for lecture, lab is for doing the R code as efficiently as possible.
o Sometimes things went a bit too fast, and for next time the teaching assistant might want to slow down on some things and reiterate when no one really answers the question. But this is minor.
o As a suggestion for the future, consider preparing a few short tasks for the students to perform in R during the lab and discuss the results and problems they faced afterwards. While going through the code together as a group was instructive, allocating 15 mins of the lab time for students to practice individually would solidify new material and instantly reveal the problematic areas. On a separate matter, it could be helpful to share a list of additional R packages available to download, with a short overview of what they do, how they can be helpful and basic syntax to get started with them.
o I think the class needs to be slower. There's simply too much material and it moves way too fix to be able to understand.
o Lab was often too short in time
o Not really
o The lab sessions sometimes felt removed from the lecture content. The course could perhaps be improved if the lecture also included some content on R syntax because our lack of knowledge of R syntax was what sometimes made the labs difficult to follow, especially in the first few weeks.
o Due to the quantity of content that was covered, we sometimes had to rush through the lines of code which made a thorough understanding for beginners a bit difficult.
o I think the pacing of the labs could be changed a little. There is not a lot of ground covered in Week 1 (presumably to help us settle into the software) and in some of the other (often, earlier) weeks, but then others are packed to the brim with concepts and topics to cover. Week 8 was especially difficult to keep up with, because the pace at which we were expected to internalise some of those concepts was much much faster than in other weeks.

What's your general assessment of the Teaching Assistant? (9 responses)

o Great. Although could be more concise and clear in explaining concepts.
o The teaching assistant was great; friendly, encouraging and available. I was especially struck by the quality of their teaching material, how prepared and clear spoken they were every time, and their incessant willingness to go above and beyond the required material.
o Possesses superb expertise in R, eager to help, supportive, delivers material in an engaging and accessible manner.
o Leo was great!
o I couldn't ask for a better teaching assistant!!
o Very good.
o Very good
o Great job, no critique!
o I love Leo, genuinely. Big fan of his teaching approach.

Political Sociology Tutorials – Student Feedback

**The tutorials generally improved my understanding of the weekly topic.**

2 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

100%
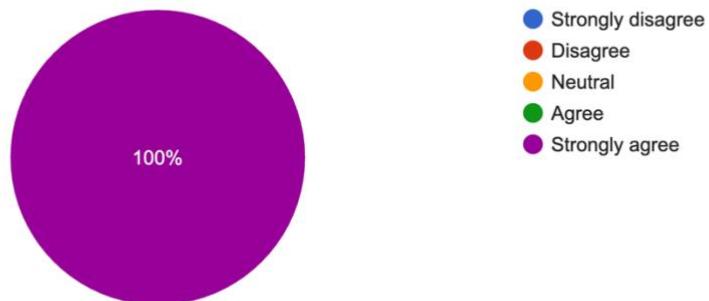
The tutorials were relevant to the content of the lectures.

2 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

50%

50%
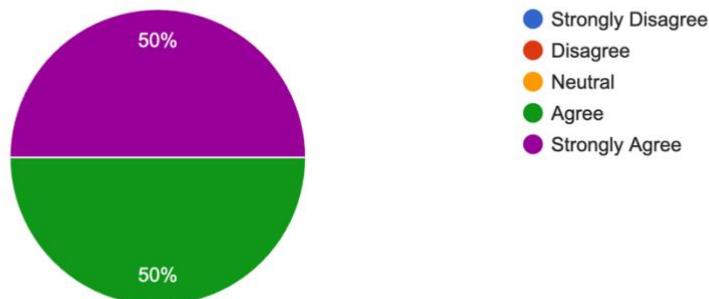
The tutorials increased my interest in Political Sociology.

2 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

50%

50%
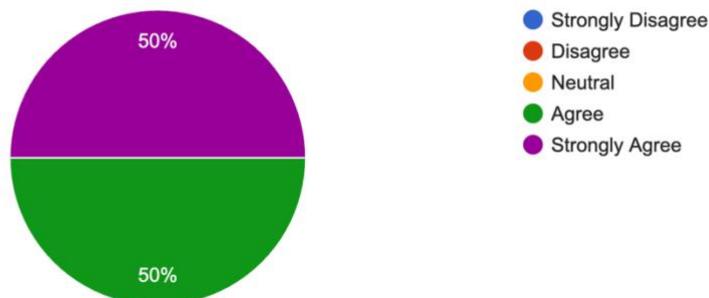
Tutorial discussions were generally engaging.
2 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

100%
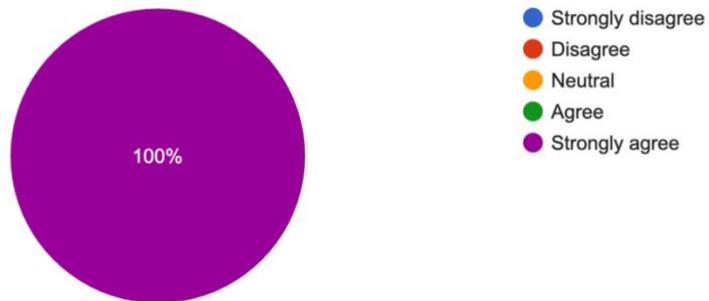
How would you characterise the level of tutorial discussions?
2 responses

- Generally too difficult to follow.
- At times too difficult to follow.
- About the right level.
- At times too elementary.
- Generally too elementary.

100%
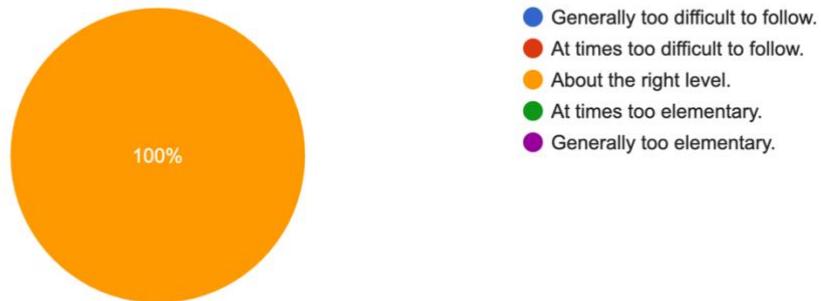
I am satisfied with the topic selection.
2 responses

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

100%
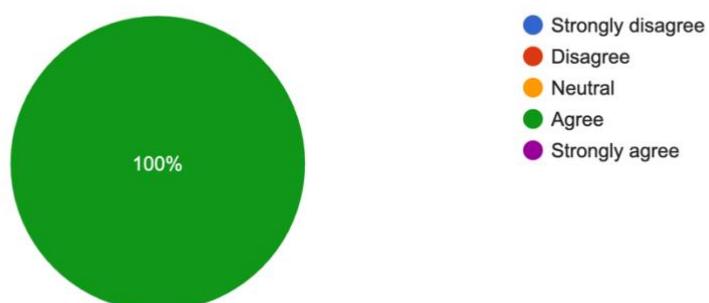
The tutorials have made me more confident about the final exam.
2 responses

100%

- 🔵 Strongly disagree
- 🔴 Disagree
- 🟠 Neutral
- 🟢 Agree
- 🟣 Strongly agree
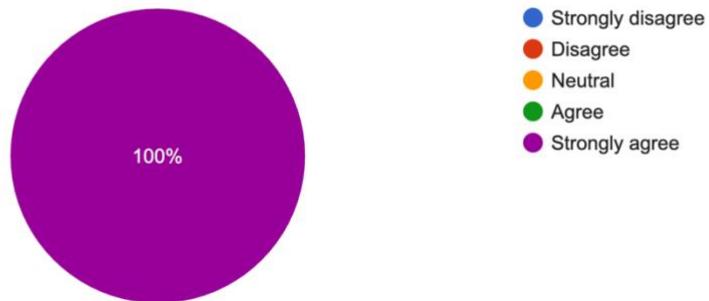
The feedback provided on my essays helped me understand better the topic.
2 responses

100%

- 🔵 Strongly Disagree
- 🔴 Disagree
- 🟠 Neutral
- 🟢 Agree
- 🟣 Strongly Agree
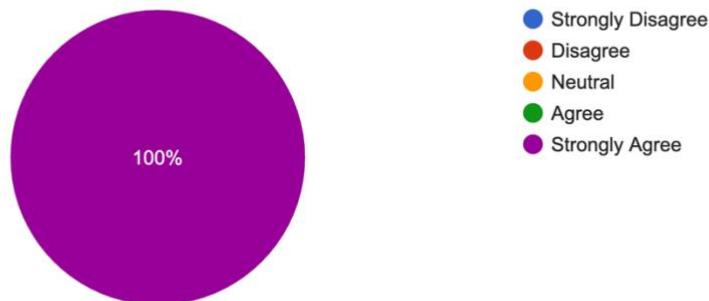
The feedback provided on my essays helped me improve my essay writing skills.
2 responses

100%

- 🔵 Strongly Disagree
- 🔴 Disagree
- 🟠 Neutral
- 🟢 Agree
- 🟣 Strongly Agree
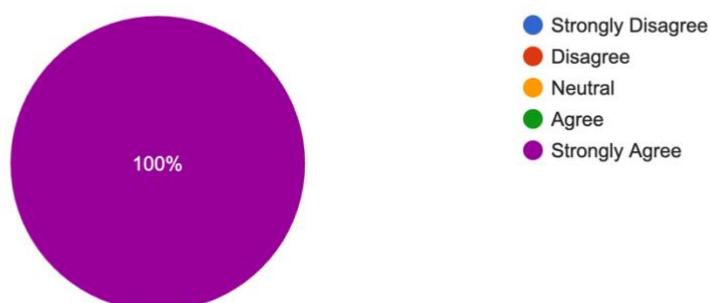
The tutor was generally prepared on the weekly topic.
2 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
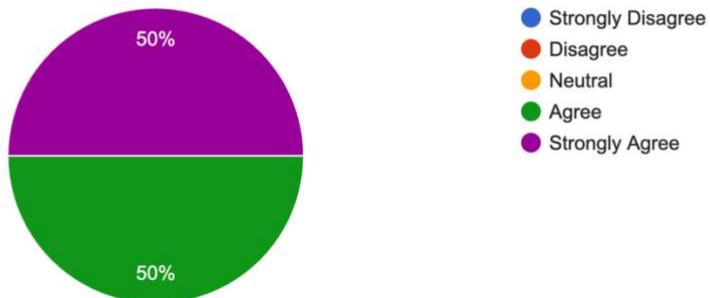
The tutor engaged with students respectfully.
2 responses

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree
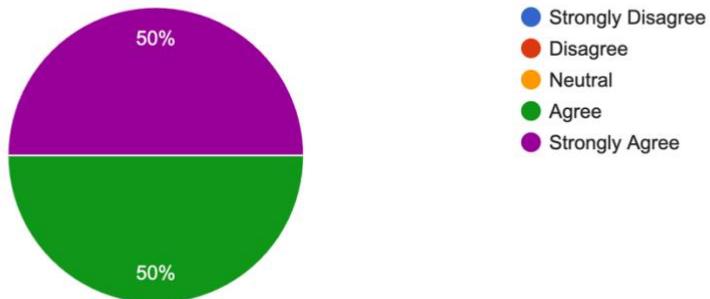
What aspects of the tutorials did you enjoy? (2 responses)

- The discussions and when we had to try to defend our opinion, (2) When we were taught how ideas and thinkers related to each otherwise in a structured way using the whiteboard, (3) When we related content from different topics to each other
- The tutorials were always engaging and made me think more about the topic and around the topic. Leo always welcomed new opinions and encouraged critical discussion. This was very fun, informative and enjoyable.

What aspects of the tutorials did not work for you? (1 response)

- Sometimes the whiteboard didn't work - but this was not the tutors fault. Leo would always successfully work around this issue.

What's your general assessment of the tutor? (2 responses)

- Very good tutor who creates an environment that helps you think about a topic in new and different perspectives
- The tutor was incredibly well prepared for the tutorial and knew the topic inside out. Leo was also very willing to answer any questions we had in

the tutorial and in emails. He would send us other helpful resources to help us better understand the topic - this was incredibly useful. The tutor always had detailed and very helpful feedback on our essays. The tutor was incredibly understanding of my technical/laptop issues. A very very good tutor who made tutorials enjoyable. Both me and my tute partner both thought he was a great tutor.

What's your general assessment of the Political Sociology tutorials this term? (2 responses)

- o Very good.
- o The tutorials were very enjoyable and informative. They were a chance to discuss and evaluate my own views too. I really enjoyed the tutorials.

Testimonials of Effectiveness in Teaching and Mentoring

"Leo is an exceptionally reliable, creative, and thoughtful teaching assistant who consistently goes above and beyond to achieve the pedagogical goals he sets. His commitment to ensuring students' understanding and engagement with the material is truly commendable. I have had the pleasure of employing him on two occasions, and in both instances, I was thoroughly impressed with his dedication and skill. In the first instance, Leo produced a comprehensive video introducing students to RStudio, which was widely praised by our students. This resource became the foundation for all introductory sessions we taught, both to undergraduate and graduate students, serving as a clear and accessible guide. In the second instance, I tasked Leo with rewriting the material for the first-year methods course at Oxford. His thoughtful approach and attention to detail resulted in a significant improvement of the curriculum, ensuring it was not only engaging but also academically rigorous."

(Associate Professor)

"As a teaching assistant for a course I taught on Introduction to Statistics, Leonardo was absolutely stellar. He was in charge of the lab sessions, for which he always prepared exercises to make students better understand the materials from the lectures. He would always send the .R markdown file for revision a couple of days before. These materials were always extremely well-designed, with exercises that were simultaneously challenging, interesting, and helpful to make students understand the contents better. Leonardo was also extremely organized. In a course with over 100 students enrolled, things would have become very hectic had it not been for excellent teaching assistance like that of Leonardo. In meetings that we had, Leonardo also shared his passion for teaching often. I cannot think of anyone better equipped to teach in Higher Education."

(Assistant Professor)

"I'm incredibly grateful to Leo for all his support during my MPhil, and I'm very thankful that he was my supervisor. Leo went above and beyond in helping me to do my best: in particular, his high quality, timely feedback on my work was really notable. Leo constantly seemed to know what scholarship I may find most instructive, showing a really impressive depth and breadth of knowledge, and was a valuable source of guidance for academic matters generally. Our supervisions were friendly, relaxed but always productive and leaving me feeling like I had learnt a lot. I was Leo's first supervisee but it felt like he always knew how to help me during the MPhil."

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

"Dr Carella taught me quantitative methods and British politics. Not only was his teaching style engaging and his classes enjoyable, but he was also extremely helpful and supportive to me, regularly going the extra mile by providing me with lightning-fast feedback and guidance to help me develop my

masters research. During my two years at Oxford, he was always so approachable and I'm very grateful for the support he offered me and my fellow classmates."

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

Leo delivered the Introduction to Statistics class which I took during my postgraduate degree at the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford. My experience with Leo was exclusively positive. The class was very useful and he made sure that everyone understood contents of the programme before we moved on to further aspects of it. More importantly though, he was always willing to help and did so with genuine expertise. When I asked for help with the quantitative side of one of my projects, he did not just direct me to where I could find advice – he sat down with me and showed ways of approaching the problem I was facing, while also thoroughly explaining them. His knowledge of R and its use for social science research was impressive, needless to say."

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

"I felt the instructor was very well versed into the literature on electoral systems, electoral reform and electoral politics both in the British and comparative contexts to the extent that he was comfortable with allowing students to discuss quite liberally any points they felt interesting or intriguing during his classes. At the same time, the lecture component of his classes was structured in a way that the underlying theories, conceptions and phenomena of the topic in question were well highlighted, which I felt gave confidence to students' learning and reading of the literature and class topics. His peer reviews on my research proposals and working papers mainly on electoral and legislative institutions in advanced democracies have also been very spot-on and constructive."

(Graduate Student, MPhil Politics)

"Of the many tutors I had during my time at Oxford, Leo was an absolute stand out. He was meticulously prepared for every tutorial and managed our learning with a fantastic balance between delivering course-driven structure and fostering an open environment for challenging, intellectual discussion. I was always impressed with the incredible, and up to date grasp Leo had on the literature, able to link new research to core texts on the reading list in order to challenge and develop our arguments. In the run up to my finals, Leo provided fantastic exam-based preparation and was a great source of moral support. I would recommend Leo for any tutoring/lecturing position without hesitation."

(Undergraduate Student, PPE)