

Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

Student Evaluations

Rice University undergraduate students evaluate instructors of record on a range of items such as preparation and classroom organization. The evaluation scale ranges from 1 to 5, where lower values indicate higher evaluations: 1 indicates “Outstanding,” 2 “Good,” 3 “Average,” 4 “Fair,” and 5 “Poor.”

For *Quantitative Analysis for Social Science* (Instructor of Record: Fall 2025), I find that I maintained high instructor ratings across all categories. Notably, I received higher ratings than the Rice average across 7 categories. I received the highest marks for organization, responsiveness, knowledge, and responsibility, demonstrating that I intentionally and effectively organized a classroom that “responded to students’ needs and requests for help.”

Table 1: Instructor Evaluation from Students

	Class Mean	Rice Mean
Organization	1.3	1.51
Presentation	1.76	1.63
Responsiveness	1.2	1.51
Atmosphere	1.34	1.49
Independence	1.66	1.54
Stimulation	1.55	1.58
Knowledge	1.34	1.53
Effectiveness	1.54	1.59
Responsibility	1.21	1.39

Rice undergraduates also evaluate the quality of the course. For *Quantitative Analysis for Social Science* (Fall 2025), I received higher ratings than the Rice average across all categories. In particular, I received high ratings for challenging students to develop skills and ensuring assignments in my course contributed to student learning/competency building.

Table 2: Course Evaluation from Students

	Class Mean	Rice Mean
Course Organization	1.33	1.69
Assignments contributed to learning	1.28	1.7
Course Quality	1.44	1.7
Challenged to develop skills	1.14	1.71

Below, I include comments submitted by students from my time as an instructor of record and as a TA for Elections 2024 and Rice’s First Year Writing Seminar.

Reviews highlight how I engage with students students and to create a safe and comfortable environment for them to grow in. Students found lectures and office hours engaging, and appreciated organization, clarity, and positive energy of the class:

Table 2: Selection of Teaching Evaluations from Students

Instructor	Teaching Assistant
<p>“Maranda was an incredible instructor for this course. Her teaching materials were always clear, both in class, and referring to notes afterwards. She is the most responsive, helpful teacher I’ve ever had at Rice, accessible during her office hours and very quickly by email. I loved taking this class with her.”</p> <p>“Ms. Joyce was a wonderful instructor. Our labs were always graded timely and she was always open to questions. She’s very flexible with questions and always responds to emails super quick! I love how she always has office hours or opens new office hours if there are schedule concerns. She always stays after class to answer questions and her fundamental notes are super helpful for the coding assignments.”</p> <p>“Amazing instructor! Really takes her time to answer your questions during office hours and broke down coding so it felt more bite-sized.”</p> <p>“She knows her stuff very well, clearly enjoys teaching, and engages with her students.”</p> <p>“To students who are intimidated by the idea of learning R-- don't be! This course was absolutely fantastic at guiding first-time learners through the process. The work was not heavily time consuming, for the most part, and the instructor was absolutely wonderful.”</p>	<p>“Excellent TA, Maranda was extremely helpful and knowledgeable on class topics.”</p> <p>“Maranda is very easy to talk to, approachable, and really friendly. Her willingness to talk with me about my writing has helped my writing skills.”</p> <p>“Thank you to Maranda for a great semester. Her advice was so helpful to my writing and she has a great vibe. I know she will do amazing things as a professor!”</p> <p>“My favorite part of this course was my one on one meetings with Maranda where she talks with me through my paper and gives us feedback on what to fix. She does this in a positive tone that allows you to reflect on your feedback.”</p> <p>“Working with Maranda feels less like a lecture and more like a conversation. When she gives us feedback, she succinctly explains to me where I can improve while making it extremely conversational.”</p> <p>“My overall organization and reviewing of my writing have improved with Maranda. She introduced techniques that helped make my writing clearer.”</p>