

AUGUST 2020 TA ORIENTATION

Day 2 – Evaluation Results

[184 Participants]

208 Total Comments

Introduction to Blackboard

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How <u>informative</u> was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	4.44	0.87	0.76	168
2	How <u>interesting</u> was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	3.92	1.11	1.24	168

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review "Introduction to Blackboard."	100.00%	11
	Total	100%	11

Comments: [N=41]

+ (n=26)

- I learned so much.
- Taught me more about the platform I used in undergrad.
- I appreciated the playful presentation.
- It was helpful.
- Really helpful to go through the instructor view and all the options for creating content.
- This was truly helpful in getting to know the platform.
- Really a helpful presentation.
- The presenter did a good job of taking the audience through Blackboard.
- Lots of basic but needed info for those of us who did not use Blackboard at our previous institutions.
- Informative
- Really useful info
- Very useful info! Will likely be referring back to video if available.
- Very useful content
- This is incredibly useful and specific. I will probably watch it again in the spring, like most of these modules.
- This was one of the better presentations in my opinion. Very good at showing how to use Blackboard to complete several tasks that a TA will need to use in our distance and classroom teaching.
- Solid and straightforward.
- Using the guide and video I was able to mimic the instructions and get a better feel of blackboard. A lot of resources were also shared for future referencing to understand how to use the platform more effectively. All in all, a very thorough presentation.
- Good (2)
- Good for someone who has never used BB.
- I've never used blackboard before so this was very informative.
- Discovered new details

- This presentation provided the much need video guidance that I required to properly understand how to navigate and use Blackboard.
- While I have previously used Blackboard, this video was quite helpful in identifying some new techniques and items that I did not know how to access. I learned a lot and would recommend this video to anyone who might have questions referring to Blackboard.
- There were many different features that I did not know about through Blackboard.
- I think the content will provide a lot of tools I did not know could be integrated.

+/- (n=14)

- A little dry but the presenter covered all the basics.
- Introduction to Blackboard was fairly simple. Simon did a great job explaining it to us.
- It's technical so it's not going to be the most interesting but I appreciated the behind the scenes look into what BB is capable of. A lot of this I will only be able to remember by hands on trying it myself though.
- As someone who is new to Blackboard, the information in this presentation was invaluable. While the content by default was a little tedious, the presenter did a fantastic job keeping the energy up.
- Hard to pay attention but the information is something I needed.
- The presentation was okay, but Blackboard is generally confusing.
- Good demonstrations, but I sometimes found myself getting confused.
- Good overview of Blackboard. A little long for the amount of content covered.
- I've used Blackboard in the past.
- I think the items presented are very intuitive for many. However, I think it is more a need to play with the tools. So I think it would be preferred to have a session where we have to set up a course, or do certain tasks.
- Thank you - this was one of the most helpful ones! But I would have liked it to skip over some of the stuff that was very basic and go into more detail about more advanced things that one can do on Blackboard like breaking students into groups for discussions etc.
- I think this was a good basic introduction to Blackboard, but as I had already watched various tutorials on Blackboard, I think I was hoping to get more advanced skills out of this video. However, if someone hadn't done any basic tutorials on Blackboard, this would have been a good start.
- Additional/more in-depth walkthroughs on how to use the different features of Blackboard, especially as a TA and not as a student would be a good addition to this presentation.
- I believe this is one of the most important topics in the TA program. However, the video did not include some information about BB, such as the template that ITS prepared for the Fall semester, how to make assessments. Additionally, this module should be offered weeks before for students who will be teaching. We need time to prepare our course and blackboard, and this information came a week before classes.

N/A (n=1)

- -

Online Teaching for TAs (issues of technology)

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How informative was this presentation?	0.00	5.00	4.31	0.95	0.91	167
2	How interesting was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	3.96	1.07	1.14	165

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review the "Online Teaching for TAs (issues of technology)"	100.00%	17
	Total	100%	17

Comments: [N=35]

+ (n=23)

- Extremely helpful and well done, definitely helped me get some ideas on how to actually handle teaching in this new, online world we're moving into.
- Helpful (2)
- It was helpful to see what is offered specifically at SU.
- Very useful content
- Helpful to learn about the various technologies at our disposal.
- This was a really helpful run-through and my favorite video from this day. It was succinct, full of tips, and easy to follow. The 1hr+ videos were incredibly hard to stay focused on and this avoided that completely.
- Imperative information for all TAs.
- Very practical!
- Informative, clear, and kept my attention.
- This presentation was also helpful in providing a visual medium in which I could see how to better navigate the various technologies that I will most likely be utilizing.
- Thank you for reviewing strategies and online resources for online teaching - I needed this!
- Thank you this was helpful - even though I knew about some of these.
- Introduced me to new tools.
- The various platforms were made known. This was a useful video that introduced numerous ways to listeners of what technology can be used in the TAs hip. This has made me a bit more confident in the preparation for my TA.
- Good (3)
- Good overview (2)
- It was pretty good.
- This was a good resource to get a better sense of how online teaching will go this semester, and what tech is available to us.
- Growing up with technology I feel I may be very tech savvy, but having this module definitely helped cement my knowledge.

+/- (n=4)

- Helpful, but a bit fast.
- It was helpful but felt a little redundant since I've been hearing so much about the topic in other presentations.
- Somewhat helpful
- I appreciated the differed resources. Could have gone more into them but other modules did that.

- (n=6)

- The information seemed rather shallow and largely directed towards just asking for help rather than means of self-correction.
- I learned all of the info presented here in SU's pre-semester webinars.
- Took the Workshop beforehand

- I think one of the things I was looking for in a lot of these workshops was to get more concrete examples and ideas of what to do in my classes.
- Coming from K-12 teaching, I am very familiar with all these tools, so I was a little disappointed that there was nothing new for me in this, however I am sure others appreciated this.
- I suggest to include classroom resources and how to utilize them. Also, none of the TA courses addressed how to deliver hybrid classes.

N/A (n=2)

- - (2)

Creating a Teaching Persona

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very							
#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How informative was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	4.53	0.81	0.66	161
2	How interesting was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	4.39	0.89	0.78	161

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review "Creating a Teaching Persona."	100.00%	18
	Total	100%	18

Comments: [N=40]

+ (n=34)

- Great overview. The presenters did a great job promoting reflection.
- Very helpful (2)
- Interesting and helpful
- Interesting course that included examples and critical thinking.
- A very practical and interesting video with lots of helpful information.
- Good
- Very useful content
- Quite useful—great to get multiple perspectives.
- It is very interesting and examples provided to make students inclusive are very good.
- Also imperative information for anyone without formal teaching experience.
- This was an outstanding presentation.
- This was very enlightening, and the presenters were very generous and lively.
- Very clear presentation, with enthusiastic presenters. This presentation was also one of my top choices.
- This was one of the best modules.
- This was the best module of them all!
- Probably the best module I saw. Engaging and helpful, and the discussion on how it's okay to set boundaries between yourself and your students was extremely validating for me.
- This was probably my favorite presentation! I really appreciated the presenter's insights, as this is something I've been concerned about. I also appreciated having something who used alternative pronouns as a presenter!

- Brought up many considerations that most wouldn't think of until the first course has started; interactive and engaging.
- An awesome, energetic, engaging presentation. The presenters had excellent pace and tone and conveyed their topic with great confidence, clarity, and passion.
- This video is awesome! I like it the most. It offers me a great insight about how to show my own persona if I become an instructor in the future.
- This is a fun and interesting presentation containing information that is surprisingly important - a persona dictates how a teacher interacts with students, which in turn impacts their ability to learn the material. I liked the use of videos (*How I Met Your Mother*) and other online materials that provided humor and interest to the presentation.
- Nice use of videos, interesting topic.
- I liked the use of relevant TV clips to convey the concept.
- I really liked this presentation because it felt really relevant and addressed one of my big concerns with going into teaching. I also loved the introduction, as it made me laugh in a stressful time.
- I very much enjoyed this presentation, and it was very helpful as someone who is a first-time teacher.
- I really enjoyed the presentation. I have personally never had a teaching position so this was very important for the roll that I will be taking as a TA.
- I really enjoyed this presentation and found it quite interesting. I had not really considered how this might impact my teaching, so to get this perspective and information was very helpful.
- I love this module. I found it funny, engaging, and incredibly helpful. I loved discussing it with Shawn.
- This alleviated some of the anxiety I felt in approaching teaching by providing an impactful and engaging presentation that gave me techniques to overcome some of the nerves on teaching and make it slightly more comfortable.
- Many good areas to wonder upon.
- It gave me a lot of important things to think about.
- Has helped me to find a good teaching personality.
- Helps me identify who I want to be as a teacher.

+/- (n=4)

- Way too long, some stuff was really basic. I wish you would have given me this assessment at the end of that day then I could have said something more specific and helpful. I just remember it dragging on but there were a few great points throughout.
- Gave me a lot to think about. Found the video in the beginning a little painful though.
- It was interesting. What's the grading criteria? I got all my questions correctly, but my score had a deduction, I don't know why?????
- I liked the concepts in this presentation, just very long for what it is. I think it would have been nice to have an end product that really developed the persona more, it seemed more focused on talking about the persona, which is useful, but does not need to be as lengthy. I also was having issues with the technology interface and the videos kicking me back to the beginning at this point, so some of these observations may be colored by my frustrations in that at the time :)

- (n=1)

- Creating a teaching persona can be difficult because we need to know when to draw the line and stand our ground when it comes to a teacher-student relationship.

N/A (n=1)

- -

Motivating Students

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How <u>informative</u> was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	4.30	1.00	1.00	164
2	How <u>interesting</u> was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	3.99	1.08	1.17	163

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review "Motivating Students."	100.00%	13
	Total	100%	13

Comments: [N=42]

+ (n=19)

- Very engaging and informative presentation. Presenters clearly had a passion for this topic and it showed in their delivery! Excellent!
- This was another great presentation. It is important to try to keep the students motivated, especially this semester. It could be a challenge, but they did a great job providing examples and ideas on how to keep the students motivated.
- As I am a person who is intrinsically motivated, I needed to learn ways to motivate students who aren't intrinsically motivated. This is a concern for me as a TA as to how to motivate a student who may become very easily discouraged or who may simply not care about his/her studies. The presentation reminded me of the different learners and now I am more alert in thinking of the ways that I may need to ensure that my students become or remain motivated in a course.
- Great
- Great tips
- Great presenters. I learned a lot.
- Erin gave interesting tips on motivating students that I liked.
- They provided really interesting strategies that I wouldn't have thought of on my own.
- Lots of useful, actionable information. Loved the presenters.
- This was by far my favorite presentation!
- Interesting, lots of new information.
- Very useful content
- Helpful clues that I hope to encourage students with.
- Good (2)
- Good strategies for motivating students. I am always worried when grading that I will harm a student's motivation or self-esteem.
- I find the language of "motivation" can be problematic, however, this presentation did take both extrinsic and intrinsic factors into account. I found it interesting, and will likely be useful to me in the future, particularly during remote teaching.
- Motivating students may be in my opinion the hardest challenge especially when we are teaching a class that may only be an elective.
- It gave some interesting ideas. I particularly liked the idea of trading points for hints on multi-part test problems.

+/- (n=6)

- Generally useful information, but a great deal of it was common sense.
- Somewhat helpful, but not particularly informative.
- The content was highly useful. I needed to take a few breaks during the presentation because the amount of information was great.
- I felt the module was very informative but the questions asked afterward were confusing.
- It was very informative, but failed to bring up Kudos, and the quiz questions at the end were horrible.
- Effective overview of motivation. The review questions could have been worded/ framed differently.

- (n=16)

- I think this provided valuable info on motivating students; however, it was a bit long.
- This felt unnecessarily long and a lot of the stuff was common sense for anyone who has taught or been a student. A few of the things felt more appropriate for high school than college. This could have really been condensed. I felt incredibly frustrated after I took the end of video test because some of the questions were very subjective so I think I flunked the test even though I listened to the whole thing. I was thinking that the test was counter to everything that was said in this module about motivation because it killed my motivation - I almost wanted to cry because I had so much to do with the multiple orientations I'm attending and did not want to do this one again.
- This course could have addressed how to motivate students when you are delivering a hybrid class. It is a challenge to keep everyone motivated when you are delivering two different modes of class at the same time.
- This was my absolute least favorite presentation. I felt like it was not easy to do well on the questions. I ended up watching this presentation several times and in the end I only earned a 7/10. Not my favorite and think this module may need additional work for future TA orientations.
- I felt like I was trying to read someone's mind to answer the quiz questions correctly. The "correct" answers may be true in some realities, but are not true in all (or even most) realities.
- The questions for this module weren't difficult, but they were difficult to get "right." The "Select all that apply" case studies felt very subjective, and I found it difficult to get my selections to match the answers.
- Although the presentation itself was very well done, the assessments were very difficult, and the phrasing was too ambiguous. The "Select all that apply" format for this subject ironically de-motivated me, as I continued to choose things that were not irrational but were considered incorrect.
- The questions at the end were difficult and subjective. Not good questions to ask if students cannot redo the module and instead have to sit through another hour.
- The video was great but the quiz at the end was very challenging due to the scenario questions. A lot of the answers to those seem subjective and were difficult to figure out.
- Answers of After-class quizzes are pretty subjective, I don't think there is any absolutely wrong answers there.
- This was a helpful module, but some of the questions at the end had an odd grading system. It also created some confusion for me when responding to situations.
- The vignette quiz questions could've been formulated better or similar examples should be included in the presentation.
- Questions and scoring weren't great—format should be reconsidered.
- I don't really understand how knowing all different technical definitions of motivation will actually help me to motivate students.
- Reminded me of the times that I was struggling as an undergrad and how I wished I could have been motivated or acknowledged.
- I did not finish this one, since I had issues with videos. I watched the first half a few times. I am really interested in badges and gamification at the college level. I would like to know specifically how to construct these in Blackboard and actually do a few while watching. (Perhaps they got into this in the part I missed).

N/A (n=1)

■ -

Dealing with Challenges/Conflicts in the Classroom

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How informative was this presentation?	0.00	5.00	4.11	1.26	1.59	111
2	How interesting was this presentation?	0.00	5.00	3.87	1.26	1.59	108

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review "Dealing with Challenges/Conflicts in the Classroom."	100.00%	73
	Total	100%	73

Comments: [N=28]**+ (n=11)**

- Very important session
- Useful
- Very useful
- Very useful content
- Good (3)
- I am not always great with handling conflict, so this was helpful.
- Since challenges are bound to arise, I appreciated this being a part of our orientation.
- Not a topic that most incoming TAs think of, so it's important that it was offered and to the point.
- This video was quite informative on making the classroom a safe space for students and myself, and discussed issues that might be rather sensitive topics. They approached the subjects well and did a fantastic job.

+/- (n=7)

- The content was important, but particular management strategies did not get addressed much.
- Once again a helpful presentation, however it was too long to hold my attention.
- A very long video, hard to focus on yet had good insight. I appreciated the conversational design of the video.
- It was long winded and repetitive. I liked how they used personal experiences.
- Effective presentation. It was quite long and overlapped with many of the other presentations.
- Again, I think I was looking for more concrete ways to deal with issues or more examples of language to use when issues arise. I do think I got something out of it, but still...
- I would have liked to have seen more examples of tangible ways on how to deal with conflicts. Again, this would have been better broken up into smaller videos with more information.

- (n=8)

- This was way too long unfortunately - it could have just focused on dealing with conflicts - that content was helpful. The classroom management stuff was repetitive in comparison to other modules.
- I felt like this was a repeat of a lot of information but presented in a really scattered, uninteresting way.

- I felt that the male presenter did not do an adequate job of explicitly talking about power dynamics in the classroom. There was a lot of vague reference without an explicit discussion of the privilege he holds as a white man. I would have appreciated a more explicit conversation about how power dynamics and implicit bias can impact teaching and learning. The rest of the presentation was fairly well-informed, although it is important to note that the phrase "preferred pronouns" is itself a microaggression, in that my pronouns are not preferred, they ARE my pronouns. "Preferred pronouns" implies that respecting them is optional. I think presenters could have been better informed.
- 90 minutes spent learning about "microaggressions" did nothing to tell me how to actually deal with classroom conflicts.
- I felt that this presentation was slightly unfocused and too conversational. I would have engaged better if the format had been more organized.
- It wasn't what I expected but it again felt a little redundant since a lot of the info was similar to previous modules.
- Many of the situations that were discussed weren't relevant to my discipline.
- I did not complete this module.

N/A (n=2)

- - (2)

Introduction to the Globalized/Multicultural Classroom

RATING SCALE: 1 = Not; 3 = Somewhat; 5 = Very

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How informative was this presentation?	1.00	5.00	4.51	0.74	0.55	106
2	How interesting was this presentation?	0.00	5.00	4.21	1.05	1.10	107

#	Answer	%	Count
X	I did not review "Introduction to the Globalized/Multicultural Classroom."	100.00%	68
	Total	100%	68

Comments: [N=22]

+ (n=14)

- Excellent presentation about a salient issue at SU.
- Great
- Great presentation, very informative.
- Good
- Good overview of the multicultural classroom.
- Good questions and a good topic, the group of presenters really worked together well and had good hypotheticals.
- Informative
- Very useful content
- This presentation was helpful in the sense that it provided assistance in dealing with issues pertaining to cultural differences and how to tackle them should they arise within the classroom setting and ensuring that each student does not feel isolated or attacked because of differing views, beliefs or cultural identity.

- As a Black Jamaican and an International student, this module was useful to me. I am now within the American space, in the role of TA, to lead a very diversified classroom of students representing various cultural identities. Being my first time being in the American system as both teacher and educator it is important for me to be very conscious of these nuances. This module helped to jolt me into awareness about this.
- I liked listening to the presenters real-life experiences with the issues they faced regarding multiculturalism.
- I like how international students were presenting this module.
- I definitely learned from this not to call on particular students to "represent" a whole country or culture - I think that's important b/c it could seem like a way of being inclusive, but actually it's pigeon-holing people unfairly.
- This was the best of the Day 2 modules I reviewed. I liked each of the presenters and they all brought valuable information and experience to the discussion. Although there was back and forth, their ability to stay concise and center themselves around their topics throughout the presentation made them much easier to engage with.

+/- (n=6)

- Very intriguing but a bit too long.
- It was a very interesting and insightful module, that has made me better prepared for a multicultural class. However, it was far too long to be engaging the whole time.
- I understand that this has important points but the presenters were talking in circles for much of it. The presentation lasted much, much longer than it needed to be.
- I enjoyed this presentation overall, but it seemed similar to the multicultural module on Day 1.
- Nicely done! Loved each of the presenters and what they brought to the table. While I felt like it dragged on a little - especially when it got to the discussion the three presenters had about their own experiences - I'm ultimately glad that the presenters had that discussion. It shows that it is likely that regardless of our backgrounds, all of us as TAs will likely run into issues or conundrums in our multicultural classrooms - and that's okay! All in all a great presentation!
- Some additional ways to construct a globalized/multicultural classroom and teaching environment would be a good addition to this module; especially best practices from the past.

N/A (n=2)

- -
- I did not review this presentation.