Ed O’Brien
Teaching Evaluations

• PSYCH 487, “Social Cognition: Thinking About Your Life”
  (scores averaged across 3 sections)

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Ed was by far the best and most well-liked GSI I have had in my time at Michigan. His passion and energy for the subject shines through his teaching and motivated me to want to maximally learn. I was lucky to have such a hard-working and intelligent GSI who truly cared for his students - it’s not very often one has such an experience. Thank you Ed!

Ed is absolutely amazing. He always is helpful in any way and makes sure that students understand the material and emphasizes his office hours. I would love it if he were my GSI for every psychology course I take.

Ed is the best GSI I’ve had at this university. He is passionate about what he teaches and genuinely cares about his students.

Ed, I think you did wonderfully teaching discussion section. You’re so enthusiastic and excited to teach whatever it is you’re trying to teach us and that makes coming to class so much better. You are always so responsive in wanting to help your students whether it be via email or in person, and I am thankful this semester to have had a great GSI that really loves what they do and is very happy to be in class teaching! Thanks for a great semester!

Ed was fantastic. Genuine guy, and a great GSI. Very understanding and mediated the classes well. Made the experience very good and it was a great pleasure to have him as an instructor.

Ed is definitely one of the best GSI’s I’ve ever had. He’s passionate about the material and happy to be teaching the section. Most importantly, he’s extremely friendly and explained the material efficiently. I don’t think I would have done as well in the class as I did if it weren’t for Ed.
Ed was one of my favorite GSIs at Michigan. He did an amazing job stimulating conversation and engaging the class. He taught me so much and made me much more passionate about social psychology. He was organized and obviously cared a lot about his class and his individual students. He was really great! The best GSI I ever met.

Ed is the best GSI I've had at UM. He goes above and beyond what we expect a typical GSI to do. He was always prepared for class and genuinely enjoyed being there. Outside of class, he was willing to meet and help students and responded to emails fairly quickly as well. Ed made the classroom an inviting place to share our ideas and ask about concepts that were unclear in lecture. It was a pleasure being in his discussion class. I wish more GSIs were like him!

Ed is by far one of the best GSIs I have had throughout my four year college career at Michigan. His passion and enthusiasm for the field was evident during every discussion section. He made discussions engaging and interesting - adding valued comments and explanations throughout section to further our understanding of the topic at hand. His approachable personality made discussion and asking questions easy. I always looked forward to going to discussion.

Ed, your lectures this semester were awesome. I don't know whether you've ever had any desire to be a professor, but you would be really great at it. I also think you did a really nice job of reviewing Dr. Schwarz's lectures during each section. Thanks for a great semester!

Very good.

Ed was one of my favorite GSIs this semester. He was always willing to meet with students and did a great job ensuring that everyone understood the concepts we were learning about.

Great professor and GSI. Both Schwarz and Ed are clearly passionate about the topics and that makes it better. Ed is great. He is really enthusiastic and helpful and makes sure that everyone knows what is going on and knows the material. I voted him for an outstanding GSI award.

Ed was a wonderful GSI! Weekly discussion sections were great - they reviewed the main points of the previous day's lecture, the week's homework, and any student questions. It was obvious that Ed was very prepared for each class and had a strong grasp of the course material. It was also very clear that Ed cares a great deal about his students. He is very helpful and supportive. I really appreciated being Ed's student - he is one of the best psychology GSI's I have had over my four years at Michigan.

Really enjoyed this class! Ed was very helpful.

Ed has been one of the best GSIs I have had during my four years at this University. Not only was he constantly well prepared for class but he was always energetic and passionate about the topics. His instruction style kept me interested in the material and seemed to make students feel comfortable to participate in class.

Ed was a great GSI. Couldn't have been more helpful to all his students and was always extremely prepared for our class sessions.

Ed did a great job explaining all the material. He wants all of his students to understand the material and is very engaging. I really enjoyed his discussion section.

Ed did a fantastic job of putting the information from lecture into a forum for everyone to discuss and come up with their own novel ideas.

Ed O'Brien is an amazing GSI who really cares about his students. He wants to make sure the main points from both the readings and lecture are clear.
• PSYCH 280, “Introduction to Social Psychology”  
(scores averaged across 3 sections)

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Ed was by far the best GSI I’ve had and probably will have. He was extremely enthusiastic about the material, a reflection of his true passion for social psychology. His presentation of the material in discussion matched if not exceeded the clarity of the material in lecture. I’d be willing to take other classes based solely on whether Ed would be an instructor for the course.

Amazing!!! This is the second class I have had with Ed and he is the best, most caring, smart, GSI out there. He would be a great professor and I would take a class with him any day if he became a professor. He deserves GSI of the year. He is so helpful and always available to his students!

Ed was a fantastic GSI! He was organized, engaging, and explained topics well. He also genuinely wanted everyone to succeed, and was understanding of the pressures we face as students.

Yay! Ed was an awesome GSI. He understands us as students, and the way he teaches is catered for us and our benefit which is something I really admire.

Professor O’Brien is definitely one of the best instructors here at the University of Michigan. He knows it is his job to teach, but also he knows it is up to us if we want to learn. He makes discussion interesting, comparing things to our lives so that we do want to learn. He is always there to help, and really cares about the students excelling in his class. Office hours are always there so that he can help us.

Ed was very clear and enthusiastic every class. I appreciated how much he wanted to help his students and explain the material.

I would just like to say that my GSI, Ed O’Brien, was honestly the best GSI I have ever had at the University of Michigan. He structured classes very well and encouraged participation in a fun way. He was well prepared and responded to our emails in a quick and efficient way. People were never scared to ask him questions and he usually had a great answer. If I could have Ed as a GSI again, I would.

Ed was one of the best GSIs I’ve ever had. He was understanding and truly wanted nothing more than his students to learn the material and succeed in the class. His discussion sections were comprehensive and informative. Ed made accommodations for his students and did almost anything he could to help them.

Ed was awesome! He was very engaging with the students, and very supportive when it came to exam prep. It was clear he wanted us to do well, and well confident in his class. He also was helpful in regards to advising students who want a career in psych.
Ed was a fantastic GSI. He was always wide awake (at 8am) and excited to talk about psychology and it was very obvious that he had a clear understanding of all of the material.

Ed was always very thorough in reviewing the lecture topics and was very open to answering questions and discussion. He was always very happy to help and reachable through email. Our discussion sections are 8 in the morning so everyone is tired but he’s always very enthusiastic and chipper for section.

While I was not always happy about going to a two hour lecture, once I got there I was always glad I came. Not only was my section GSI a wonderful teacher, but also enthusiastic and always willing to help. While some of the discussions may have been a little long, they were nothing if not thorough. I always walked away from discussion with a better understanding of what had happened in lecture. This GSI was amazing and always willing to help out students and passionate about teaching this subject. The extra videos, outside sources, and ridiculously thorough powerpoints helped immensely. The promptness (that college kids don't always get from professors or GSI's) in answering questions, emails, etc, made it easy to fix problems/understand what was going on in the class. Sometimes a little long winded, but all in all, made my experience with this class so much better and his enthusiasm and encouragement was inspiring.

Ed O'Brien should be a full time instructor at UM. He cares about his students and it is obvious. Ed is just that good!

Ed was an excellent GSI! He was kind, caring, and very open-minded. He was very knowledgeable in all of our topics and was always quick to provide various examples on each concept. He made class fun (even at 8am), and he was great at facilitating discussion, always asking whether people had different perspectives to share or if they disagreed with him. He always made sure to be respectful of our opinions. Ed was also quick to respond in e-mails, and even though GSI's are always busy with their own graduate school work, it seemed like Ed made teaching his sections a priority. He was very approachable, which made asking questions both comfortable and frequent. He even took the time to e-mail me to praise me on the good work I was doing that semester! It was something I was not expecting, as in my past experience, it is rare to find an instructor who will reach out to the student to comment on her progress, without the student asking. Thanks for a great and helpful discussion section to Psych 280. It really helped my learning in this course.

I loved this class. Truly finding it hard to find any criticism.

Great instruction, learned a lot.

Discussion held a thorough review of lecture material and each class was consistently helpful. We also participated in activities to learn concepts, and this was very effective. Ed was beyond helpful in all group discussions; the best GSI I have ever had. He truly cared for every single one of his students and was willing to answer questions about course topics/other psych classes/a future in psych at any time. He definitely knows his psychology and his passion and dedication were shown in each discussion. It was a pleasure having him as GSI.

Ed O'Brien is friendly, engaged, and tries to make the material more entertaining. He’s probably one of the best GSI’s I’ve had

I appreciated the effort Ed put into preparing his slides and lectures. He is genuinely invested in our success which doesn’t always happen in the GSI world. Everything progressed smoothly & I feel like attendance stayed high throughout the semester, which is another notable scenario This was a well organized and interesting course

The course was well defined and laid out and it followed a good schedule. The quality of instruction was very high

Ed was a great GSI and was very clear about what he expected from students. He was very helpful and responsive. He made the class really interesting!

He knew what he had to cover and listened to what students needed and adjusted accordingly.
• PSYCH 111, “Introduction to Psychology”  
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My GSI was amazing. Ed is on his way to being a great professor!

Discussion sections were led extremely well and were extremely helpful.

Ed O'Brien is one of the best GSI's at UM.

BEST GSI EVER! HIRE HIM MICHIGAN!

Very well instructed. Ed is a great teacher.

Instruction was clear and concise.

The instructor made the class very engaging and used time very well.

Ed was awesome, definitely made even the dry material more fun.

I really liked how this class was structured! I would like to have you for more discussion sections!

Ed was an excellent instructor, and I learned a great deal from him. He is definitely the best GSI I have had thus far.

The discussion was extremely valuable. It clarified complicated topics and presented material in a fun and interesting way.

The instructor was always prepared and sometimes had too much material to cover during the short time period. The sections were interesting.

The GSI was amazing. He was very engaging and made thursday morning discussions something to look forward to. Even when he took over lecture for a week, he was very engaging and fun to watch.

Very good instruction; I love Ed. He tries his hardest to make sure the whole class is interested and learning a lot. He always answered questions enthusiastically without making anyone feel stupid.
The discussion was very well taught. The repetition of material encouraged understanding of the numerous topics taught in the class. The discussion presented the material in a fun manner and helped me do well in the class.

Ed was without a doubt my favorite teacher all semester. He was an awesome guy, ready to help whenever anybody needed it. The discussion sections were extremely interesting and covered so many interesting topics. Ed was able to fit in all of the material while having an enjoyable time. As a big fan of movies and TV shows, I also thought the incorporation of interpretation of screens was a nice addition to the class.

The instructor was a great GSI and his teaching really helped me learn and understand the material better. He explained things very clearly and was very willing to help students. I enjoyed going to discussion because I knew that I would get a lot out of it. I'm glad that I was in this particular section.

Ed was the best GSI I ever had! He is very knowledgeable about psychology, especially social psychology. He always did a great job clarifying confusing terms that were discussed in lecture of the book. I like the interpretation of screens assignment we did each week because it was a fun and creative way to think about what we had learned in psychology. I also like that he gave us practice questions in section. In addition, he did a great job lecturing on social psych. He made it really interesting and it was one of my favorite chapters covered this semester.

I thought that Ed did a really great job of teaching the discussion. His power points did an excellent job of organizing the material in a way that very often times made more sense than the book; they were very helpful in gaining a clear, overall view of the material, especially right before the exam. He was always prepared and knew what it was that he wanted to cover in class. He was also very willing to help students if they needed it and always made sure that our questions were answered if we had any. I liked that he always tried to at least mention the Hock readings so that we at least had a general understanding of them, and the interpretation of screens assignments was a fun way to apply the concepts of class to observable situations. I also enjoyed the two lectures that he gave to the entire class; they were well thought out, explained, and the videos helped with understanding a lot. Overall, he did a really great job of running the classroom and trying to cover all of the material even though we had a limited time to do it in during discussion.