

## Teaching Fellow: James Michael Noonan

### 7.6.1. In what ways was the teaching fellow most effective? Why?

Was someone who was willing to admit he didn't have all the answers and grappled with many of the questions with us. Very humble in his approach, but a wealth of knowledge. Really enjoyed section!

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James was a master at creating a safe and enjoyable section environment. It was clear that he really cared about us as individuals, which I think made everyone feel valued and comfortable. Beginning section each week with "check-ins" was such a nice way to start. Though we talked rigorously about serious issues, the section had almost a family feel to it. I particularly liked how he assigned two students each week to raise questions to start our discussion. It was a nice way to empower students without putting too much of an intimidating burden on us (we were not responsible for facilitating the entire discussion--that was still James' job--but we got to bring our thoughts to the table and steer the conversation.)

Also, he always had such thoughtful things to say, and he could guide the conversation when necessary, but he in no way dominated the conversation--students did the majority of the talking in this section. Finally, I loved the final activity of writing a letter to ourselves with our major takeaways from the course, that James will mail to us in six months. Great idea!

I love that in this class, the course leaders practiced what they preached. This course talks about the importance of getting to know and appreciate students, and both James and Rick really lived that.

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James was very effective at letting our group take ownership over the direction that we wanted to go.

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He facilitated discussion extremely well and made each student in section feel listened to and supported. I thought that he had a great grasp of the material as well and was able to increase my understanding of the course.

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James was super at creating an environment in which people felt comfortable talking. I also particularly like the way he created time for a "check-in" at the beginning of each section meeting - that really helped build community. While I was skeptical at first about having students pose questions for the group to answer, I thought that method actually worked very well. I also liked how James returned mid-way through the term to our class norms and facilitated a discussion about how we were doing.

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He was very open and interested to hear each of our thoughts and ideas relating to that week's course material. He made himself available for answering questions about course topics and assignments.

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James is incredibly effective at creating an atmosphere of support and vulnerability. I appreciated that he created a check-in routine. This is one of the only lecture classes where I feel like I got to know my fellow students and their ideas. The section check-in was a big part of this. He also participated in our discussions rather than merely facilitating. This allowed him to function as a teacher and a student of moral development. He showed us that he was there as a guide, but that he didn't have all the answers and was still learning himself. This was an incredibly effective approach.

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James was such a supportive and insightful teaching fellow. I really appreciated the way in which he gently facilitated our section meeting discussions. His comments on my papers were also very useful.

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James' warm and thoughtfulness was apparent in each section.

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James provided supportive constructive feedback that aligned well with my goals for the assignments. He led positive discussions in section and was an asset to the group when little facilitation was necessary.

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facilitating discussions

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**7.6.2. What recommendations would you make to the teaching fellow to strengthen his or her teaching and/or make the course more valuable?**

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Keep doing what you're doing!

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Perhaps leave time for more of a wrap up at the end of section meetings.

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I would have loved more time to actually test out the skills we were learning and potentially have a bit more structure to section.

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I thought section was super!

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The effectiveness of section seemed to deteriorate as the semester went on. James provided great closing thoughts but left the questions of the day up to the students which may have worked with a different group but somewhat failed with ours. No one was willing to ask questions that stimulated debate and differences of opinion. In the future if this structure fails again it would be great to change it up.

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None, James is excellent!

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n/a

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Perhaps a little more structure. We came up with some good questions, but often times it felt like group therapy/pointless musing.

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I cannot think of any.

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nothing really

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7.6.3. Please evaluate each item carefully and independently. If the item does not apply to the specific responsibilities of a particular TF, please indicate NA in the response area.

	1 - None of the Time	2	3	4	5 - All of the Time	NA	Total
A - The teaching fellow has a good understanding of the subject matter	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (1)	90% (10)	0% (0)	100% (11)
B - The teaching fellow was an effective discussion leader	0% (0)	0% (0)	18% (2)	0% (0)	81% (9)	0% (0)	100% (11)
C - The teaching fellow was able to answer my questions	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (1)	90% (10)	0% (0)	100% (11)
D - The teaching fellow provided timely feedback on course assignments	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	27% (3)	72% (8)	0% (0)	100% (11)
E - The teaching fellow provided helpful feedback on course assignments	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (1)	9% (1)	81% (9)	0% (0)	100% (11)
F - The teaching fellow was accessible to students outside of class	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (1)	90% (10)	0% (0)	100% (11)
G - The teaching fellow responded to students respectfully	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	100% (11)	0% (0)	100% (11)