Columbia University: Arts & Sciences
A&S Fall 2019 Standard Evaluation

Course: PSYCUN3615_001_2019_3-CHILDRENATRISK

Instructor: Geraldine Downey

TA: James Dunlea *

Response Rate: 30/33 (90.91 %)

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1 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of James Dunlea (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader) as an instructor, and how might James Dunlea's teaching be improved?

Response Rate	24/33 (72.73%)

• SO NICE! He really wants us to succeed.

• Fantastic TA! Not sure how James even managed to grade so quickly and respond to emails so quickly and so thoroughly. He put so much effort into being a TA for this class and it shows.

• I liked him a lot! He was very clear and straightforward about what was expected. Pretty lenient grader and he helped a lot with finding sources. Super knowledgable.

• James was the most incredible TA I've ever had (and I've spoken with other students who have said the same). So helpful, thoughtful, deliberate in his approach. Made himself so available and did everything in his power to help students succeed. It was by far the most encouraging/inspiring academic experience I've had with an instructor since being at Columbia. He has clear passion for the work as well as for teaching and it was infectious to the students. He consistently was a clarifying voice in the class, pointing students towards additional resources at the end of each class which added so much value to the lessons. Truly can't say enough wonderful things. I feel lucky to have taken the course just to be able to have James as a TA.

• He is an excellent TA who was knowledgeable in any topics I might bring into the table. His office hours always made me feel welcomed and satisfied, and it was clear that he wanted us to understand and be more interested in the course.

• James was probably the best TA that I've had in my 2 years here at Columbia. He sent weekly emails to help us figure out where we are on the syllabus and what readings we needed to complete. He often sent out additional readings/resources related to the coursework for those interested. He was always readily available via email to answer any question or to meet in person. His guidance was always on point and extremely helpful in research and writing of papers and projects. He has also made himself available for mentoring/post grad discussions to help us move forward with what we are passionate about. Overall, James is truly an amazing asset to this class.

• James Dunlea was the best TA that I have ever had. He was present, engaged, understanding, compassionate, knowledgeable, helpful, and a huge resource in the class. Above all he truly cared about the student in his class which I have rarely, if ever experienced to this extend from a TA at Columbia University. I felt incredibly lucky to have had him as my TA in the course, it would not have been the same or as successful without him.

• ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC. Super consistent, kind, effortful, honest, available, and wonderful! Also very approachable.

• He was a fabulous teaching assistant and I would not have recommended this course to other students if he was not the TA. He made the assignments and grading breakdowns very clear and the midterm review session was extraordinarily helpful. He was always exceedingly timely and helpful when responding to emails and always found time to meet with me in person even if it was outside of office hours. I really appreciated his dedication to the course and feedback on various assignments. Thank you, James!

• James is an understanding engaged TA. My only complaints about James are that he grades too easily, although I would guess that this is due to how disorganized Professor Downey's class is.

• James was always accessible and clearly cared about the successes we could have as a student. He was clear about his expectations and fair in his assessments of our work.

• James Dunlea was the best TA I have ever had. He was the backbone of the class. He was organized and timely with his knowledge and responses. He was a very fair grader and a kind person. He is just wonderful.

• James was awesome, he helped with questions about the class and concepts, as well as providing so much insightful outside information. He also was amazing in providing resources for future careers and ways to get involved in psychology and sociology

• James is a great TA; he provides helpful feedback and thorough commentary on assignments. He was diligent with weekly emails that would help prepare us for week's lectures and generally, was available when needed.

• He's AMAZING. So responsive, so helpful, so nice, so approachable, so down to earth, so smart. Really the saving grace of this class in my opinion.

• Awesome TA, willing to help students whenever and with what ever

• James is undeniably the best TA I've ever had. He cared about all of us, and did everything in his power to aid our learning experiences. With Geraldine as the teacher James clearly had a lot on his plate, but he did it all with a smile. He gave great feedback and clearly took the time to really grade peoples projects and essays. As well his willingness to hold extra office hours when students needed was so helpful. I could not say enough good things about James. Honestly, I wish he had been the main professor, I think I would have learned a lot more.

• James is one of the best TAs I have had at Columbia so far. His communication during and between classes was greatly appreciated. Assignments were graded with detailed explanations and in a timely manner. He responded to emails very quickly. His office hours were adjustable and whenever I left, I always felt confident in the upcoming assignments. He would send extra material related to class discussions if we were interested in learning more. My personal favorite was his words of encouragement that our grades do not define us.

• James is one of the best TAs I have had in my three and a half years at Columbia. He makes himself extremely available to students and provides helpful feedback and criticism. As a student who has gotten grades back minutes after turning in essays, I very much appreciate James' meticulous notes and feedback on our papers. James is committed to helping students learn, rather than just getting us through the class. James also provided clarification when needed on many aspects of class, including logistical things like which readings were due, as well as clarifications on course material, and how to better apply some of the theories we were talking about to the interventions we discussed. Beyond interactions in the classroom and regarding work related to the class, James goes above and beyond to make himself a resource for students looking for opportunities in the workforce. His thoughtfulness and conscientiousness make him an amazing teaching assistant and will one day make him an amazing professor.

• James was amazing - he was patient , kind and always gave good feedback . I felt comfortable and welcomed in his presence.

• James is incredibly supportive and very knowledgeable. He is by far the best TA I have ever personally had or ever heard of anyone having. He is very engaged with every single student and put in countless hours into speaking with us and well as reading and commenting on our papers.

• James was an amazing TA! He went out of his way to make himself available for his students. He always knew the perfect book recommendations, and gave excellent suggestions for formatting papers and presentations. He was very approachable, and was a highly valuable resource to the students in this class!

• He is wonderful and generous with his time and energy. His enthusiasm for the subject and its importance really inspired me.

• James has been incredible, probably one of the best TAs I have ever had at Columbia. Aside from being probably the kindest person I've ever met, he was so incredibly helpful this semester. Was always willing to meet/email/or help in any way. He spent so much time giving suggestions, offering insight (he knows so so much about the field, and is always offering papers, topics, and contacts), and giving meticulous feedback. And he didn't only choose to help with topics related to the course - he was super helpful and willing to offer guidance on grad school/career stuff. Overall awesome!

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2 - What is your overall assessment of the effectiveness of James Dunlea?					
Response Option	**Weight**	**Frequency**	**Percent**	**Percent Responses**	**Means**
Excellent	(5)	28	93.33%		4.93
Very Good	(4)	2	6.67%		
Good	(3)	0	0.00%		
Fair	(2)	0	0.00%		
Poor	(1)	0	0.00%		
				0 25 50 100	Question
Response Rate				**Mean**	**STD**	**Median**
30/33 (90.91%)				4.93	0.25	5.00