

**Department of Philosophy
University of Arizona
GTA Teaching Advisory Committee
COMMENT FORM**

Teaching Assistant: _____

Course: _____ Section: _____ Lecture: yes ___ no ___
Discussion: yes ___ no ___

Year/semester/date of visit: _____

Follow up needed: yes ___ no ___

Visitor's Name: (print) _____

Visitor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please comment on the teaching of the above-named graduate student based on your class visit. Try to make your remarks as specific and constructive as possible, offering **concrete suggestions** for how the TA might improve his or her teaching. You may structure your report as you wish and make any comments you consider relevant.

The following questions may be used as a guideline:

1. Was the TA well-prepared and organized?

- Did the TA have and announce a clear plan for the hour?
- Were ideas presented in an orderly manner?
- Did the TA make good use of the board or handouts to outline material, present arguments, and summarize main points from discussion?

2. Was the discussion section well-led?

- Did the TA speak clearly and audibly?
- Were questions clear and well-posed?
- Did the TA use examples effectively?
- Did the TA do well at modeling philosophical skills such as how to clarify a question, define key terms, draw a distinction, set out an argument, critically assess an argument, and explore a difficult question fairly and carefully?
- Did the TA effectively signal transitions when changing topics?
- Did the TA present material at an appropriate level?
- Did the TA effectively identify which information was most important?
- So far as you could discern, was information accurately presented?

3. Did the TA appear to maintain student interest? Was he or she able to generate enthusiasm and stimulate interest and discussion?

- Does the TA make effective eye contact and have good body language?
- Does the TA use engaging examples and pose challenging and stimulating questions?
- Does the TA effectively encourage exchange among the students?

4. Were student questions and comments handled well?

- Does the TA effectively clarify student questions or comments before responding in order to make sure other students have followed?
- Does the TA encourage students to answer each other's question?
- Is the TA non-defensive/non-combative in dealing with student questions and comments?
- Does the TA respond to questions clearly and helpfully?

5. What are the overall strong points of this student's teaching?

6. What areas would you suggest for improvement?