

Teaching Assistantships in Architecture

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Overview



Typical responsibilities

Types of positions

Teaching modes

Grading & Feedback

Teaching Tips

Support and resources

Q&A

General Responsibilities

Attendance

Blackboard
Orange SAccess
Excel/Spreadsheet
Participation

Liaison

Answer questions

Feedback/grading

Blackboard
OrangeSAccess
Spreadsheets
Verbal

CDR Accommodations

TAs - TEACHING ASSISTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- _Grading – Mid-Progress Report and Final grading for each student in their section.
 - _Grade Sketchbooks, assignments, in-class participation
- _Responsible for one drawing section
- _Prepare documents for tutorials
- _Weekly meetings and discussion with Professor Herrera and UGAs, to prepare for following weeks lessons.
- _Record attendance
- _Conceptboard and Zoom Sessions – Lead weekly critiques and exercises
- _Documentation – help assist students with coursework documentation. Maintain and collect student work on G-Drive.
- _Handouts – help deliver assignment handouts
- _Family Weekend – Help organize and setup Family Weekend Event – Exhibition (TBA)
- _Deliverables – help organize, collect, grade and deliver materials
- _Final Exam – collect final submissions and finalize grades

Example

Types of TA Positions



Structures

Building Systems

BIM

Skills expected

Understanding basic structural engineering concepts
Good grasp on analytical calculations

Understanding regulatory concept in building design
Understanding various structural and mechanical systems and their applications
Understanding building assembly methods and materials

Proficient in Revit
Understand Building and Information Modeling Systems and how they are used in the field

Responsibilities

Manage recitation sessions
Monitor exam sessions
Evaluating assignments and exams

Manage recitation sessions
Monitor exam sessions
Evaluating and grading assignments and exams

Assist students with software
Monitor exam sessions

Types of TA Positions



Theory

History

Professional Practice

Skills expected

General understanding of architecture theory
Reading comprehension

Knowledge of historical buildings and their contexts and ideas
Reading comprehension
Understanding of physical and conceptual architecture vocabularies

Affective communication

Responsibilities

Manage discussion sessions
Provide feedback
Monitor exam sessions

Manage discussion sessions
Grade Papers/Exams
Monitor exam sessions

Monitor exam sessions
Provide feedback on projects

Representation

Media

Design Studio

Skills expected

Sketching/Hand-drawing (ARC 181)
Rhino (ARC 181 & 181)Photoshop
Illustrator
InDeisgn

Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
Rhino
Basic understanding of any new programs
introduced by instructors

Rhino
Adobe Creative Cloud Suite
Proficient in representational skills
Communication skills
Constructive criticism

Responsibilities

Manage working sessions
Help student with assignments & software issues
Lead pin-up discussions
Grade student submissions

Assist students with software
Help professor evaluate assignment

Assist students with software
Hold software and/or drawing tutorials
Help manage reviews and pinups
Assist with grading

Teaching Modes

Interactions with Students



Lectures

Recitation

Discussions

Work sessions

In-Class Tutorials

Project Critique

* Office Hours

Virtual Meetings

Evaluating and Grading

Grades vs feedback

For grading creative works, set
baselines for grades

Grading across sections in the same course

Objective vs Subjective

Students' responses

Teaching Tips



Set clear boundaries and expectations

personal information/social media
students might work on studio instead of classwork

Set time limits for everything

Office hours are not always mandatory
Track your hours
~10/20 hours per week
Schedule meetings in advance

Stay organized

Spreadsheets
Folders

Email as mode of communication

Keeps records of conversations

Set baselines for grades

Understand and anticipate students' needs

Architecture
Students/we tend to prioritize studio over other subjects

Meet in public spaces

Record virtual meetings

Point students to additional resources

Stay flexible (and spontaneous?)

creative problem solving

Talk to other TAs

Grading across sections in the same course
Support network

Talk to other non-architecture TAs

(Get out of Slocum)
New perspectives

Supports and Resources



SU Graduate School

[Instructional Resources](#)

Graduate Student Union

TA Workshops throughout the semester

[SU Wellness and Family](#)

School of Architecture

GSA

Course instructors

Fellow TAs

TA Coffee Corner (in the works)

TA Group chat/ Discord?

questions?

concerns?

suggestions?