

February 7, 2016

My name is Kaylin Cottone and I am a student at Syracuse University. I had the pleasure of having Scarlett Rebman as my Teachers Assistant in the course, Ancient Civilization, during the fall semester of 2015. When considering past experiences with Teachers Assistants, Scarlett stands out because of the determination she had for my classmates and I to succeed. In my recitation, she made it so every student knew each other and felt comfortable participating in group discussions. She never made me feel like my thoughts and opinions were wrong and always responded with positive feedback. When a test was coming up, she made it so I was completely prepared and had all the information needed perform well. She created fun games such as Jeopardy as a way to review for the upcoming exam which greatly influenced my performance on those tests. She was able to make the material fun and easy to learn so that students that might not have a particular interest in history were able to still thoroughly understand everything. She was always 15 to 20 minutes early to every class so that everything needed for that class period was already set up and ready to go when it was time to start. Whenever I had a question about something or didn't completely understand what was expected of me, I felt comfortable emailing Scarlett because she answered me in a timely manner and would directly address my questions so that I felt confident completing the assignment at hand. Some of the reading tasks for the course were very difficult to understand, so Scarlett always discussed the text in our class to make it clearer.

What I liked most about her style of teaching is that she used both written material and group activities to teach us a concept. For example, if we had to remember a timeline of events during a specific historical period, she would give us access to it on a PowerPoint slide so that we could write it down our notes. She would then write the events on a pieces of paper, give each student one of the pieces of paper, and then have us get up and put ourselves in order forming a human timeline. I was able to understand the material better since she provided it to us in different ways. Scarlett also prompted very good ideas and questions for the class to discuss and further explore. By listening to each other's thoughts and ideas, I was able to critically think about a subject by considering my classmate's views and my own. This was so helpful when it came to writing the papers required for the course. Scarlett's overall strengths as an instructor is her encouraging personality, organization, ability to implicate various learning methods, and willingness to help students that might be struggling. My experiences as Scarlett's student outshine my experiences with any other teachers assistant, and I would highly recommend other students to enroll in her classes. I have her to thank for my excellent performance and understanding in ancient civilization.