

## Online Course Evaluations

### 2017-Spring

Teaching Fellow  
HMRT 100 01/PLSC 148 01  
Human Rights Theory & Politics

#### Q:

Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the Teaching Fellow. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

*(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s), your teaching assistant, and administrators responsible for evaluating teaching.)*

#### Responses:

##### **Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul was great at facilitating discussion in sections. He was understanding but also not afraid to probe us further in our ideas and thoughts. Very willing to help outside of section too and discuss topics that interested us.

---

##### **Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul was a great TF. He was very knowledgeable about the issues and allowed us to come to our own conclusions. He steered the conversation into a very fertile territory and made everybody feel comfortable offering their viewpoint.

---

##### **Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is the absolute best. He is helpful and knowledgeable and section was actually enjoyable. If you take this class, have him as your TA!

---

##### **Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is THE MOST talented and amazing TA I have every had during my time at Yale. He could have taught the entire course spectacularly. His grasp on the material and his insight into which questions most need grappling with was beyond any other instructor at Yale. I loved this class because of his teaching and looked forward to attending section every week. Moreover, he was very considerate regarding the classroom dynamic and made the section a comfortable space to speak in, and would give opportunities for the quieter members to speak (it was nice especially when he would praise someone's reading response, especially if that person was shy in section. I thought that was very considerate and helpful for the section to feel like more of a community.) This has honestly been the only section at Yale I felt was actually productive for my learning -- e.g. you're not just there for participation points and to prove that you've done the readings, rather, you're there because the issues are important and Paul can help guide you through thinking through them in a complex way. Paul also gave very thoughtful and deep feedback on the midterm papers, which I felt exceeded the quality of most comments I have gotten from either professors or TAs throughout my time at Yale.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul literally only has strengths as a TA. Lecture was interesting, but I think the heart of my learning came from being in section. He's brilliant, and was an excellent discussion leader. He always challenged students to think more critically about the readings, and was really attentive to what students were saying. If there was anything that I would maybe ask him to tone down a bit is how much he talks--he could sometimes go off on a point--but honestly everything he said was always really informative. If it's possible, having Paul teach an iteration of this course in seminar style would be incredible.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Absolutely incredible. Best instructor (professor or TA) I had this semester.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is an amazing TF. He really pushed the students in our section to think constantly about the theory behind our discussions and I think our understanding and takeaways from this class benefitted from his leadership. He always made himself available to meet with students before papers and I really feel like my participation in his section was just as important to my experience of this course as the lectures themselves. He does a particularly good job of making sure that students speak fairly equally in section, which I appreciated.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is by far the most excellent TF I have ever had. At times he was more knowledgeable and insightful than either of the professors. He was more like an interesting scholar of the subject, rather than merely a grad student or TF. The questions he posed during section always moved me to think more deeply and seriously about the issues at hand, and he would continuously take student responses and elevate them by asking more nuanced questions or commentary in response. He was excellent at facilitating conversation and deeply enthusiastic about the material. His feedback on assignments was also always meaningful and pushed us to think more deeply or explore angles we may not have

considered. He introduced a high level of analysis into what may have otherwise been a survey course and also made section into a highly intellectual discussion.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul was an absolutely amazing TA. I feel like I get the most out of section every week because of how thoroughly we go through the concepts we go through. The feedback he provides on assignments are also extremely helpful.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is a good guy and he's obviously very knowledgeable and experienced with the topic. However, I really didn't enjoy section, which is unfortunate because I think it had the potential to be very interesting. I just felt that it was just too much about bouncing theoretical ideas off one another and somehow in all of that not managing to discuss human rights in practice.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul is an excellent TA and a very good discussion-leader who seems to care about his students and pays attention to every student's comment during section discussion. He's also very accommodating and is overall a very good TA. The only weakness I would point out is that he grades his exams very harshly because he seems to have very high expectations for our short essays.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul was great. He was really good at facilitating discussions. He was super available and supportive.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Paul was amazing!!! He engaged with students really deeply, and always made himself available to students. You could tell he cared a lot about the subject and about the opinions of students. He gave thoughtful feedback. Overall, really great! He should be a teacher her. One thing I think would help improve section is if we made it slightly more like an actual discussion between the students. I think it could be more effective to get rid of raising hands and instead have open conversations.

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

Incredibly passionate and intellectual and very accessible

---

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek**

The best TA i have had to date. He facilitates conversations as well as he leqds them which is rare.

---

*Decline to Answer*

**Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek: 7**