

Online Course Evaluations

2015-Spring

Teaching Fellow
HUMS 309 01/PLSC 114 01
Intro to Political Philosophy

Q:

Was the relationship between the section (if any) and the course effective, and how could it be improved? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your teaching assistant (discussion section leader, lab section leader, grader or other assistant) as an instructor, and how might his/her teaching be improved? (*Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s) and your teaching assistant, and by administrators responsible for evaluating their teaching.*)

Responses:

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

Paul was able to always offer a lot of help throughout the writing process and really wanted to engage his students with the material. He did have section go long fairly consistently though and assigned work that was not in the syllabus.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

Good. Very nice and willing to help. A bit unclear about grading and what was expected on writing assignments.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

Really committed. I learned just as much in section as lecture, and really enjoyed it each week. He gave informative feedback on my writing each week which helped phenomenally.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

Paul was an incredible Teaching Fellow. His comments on my weekly questions and portfolios were so helpful; they allowed me to improve my writing and revise my final essay significantly. His sections were all very engaging. I really benefitted from the way he encouraged us to get deeper in our analysis of the text.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

I cannot emphasize how wonderful Paul was as a TF. First of all, he is incredibly knowledgeable, but also not intimidating, and made the section a comfortable space for anyone and everyone to participate. When discussion got off topic, he tied it back to the readings we were doing. Also, he was very receptive to his midterm feedback, and started implementing weekly guiding questions to prepare for section to make sure we could have a fruitful discussion (while this added some work to the course, it was extremely informal and well worth it in my opinion). Above all, Paul's accessibility outside of class was amazing and tailored to our schedules, and he gave of the impression that he could advise on anything related to the course, other political philosophy and political theory, graduate school, and law school. I know his comments on my writing definitely helped me improve over the course of the semester.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

Paul was objectively great, honestly. He really did a good job at letting the students really gear the discussion and lead the conversation, which made section all the more worthwhile and interesting. Outside of section, Paul really proved to be an accessible resource, taking phone calls and meeting outside of his designated office hours. Meeting with him pretty consistently really changed my thoughts on the course from a more negative one to one that was very much positive at the end of the semester, and it ultimately made me a more confident and overall better writer.

Instructor: Paul Peter Linden-Retek

My teaching fellow (Paul Linden-Retek) is amazing and I would highly recommend any fellow student taking the class to sign up for his section should he be teaching the class next semester. With that being said, I think the experience one has in section is very much dependent on the style the TA teaches. Personally, I learned a lot from section because I found it hard to ask deep involving questions during lecture and found the small intimate setting of the section to be the perfect place to clear up aspects of the course that I was confused about.
