

Term	Spring, 2021 (2021A)	Enrollment	12	School	ARTS & SCIENCES
Activity Type	SEM	Eligible	12	Division	-
Cross Listed Sections	-	Responses	8	Department	POLITICAL SCIENCE
		Response Rate	67%	Subject	POLITICAL SCIENCE

Question and Scale	Average Ratings				This Instructor Only Worst Rating...Best Rating					Responses
	Instructor	Section	Course	-	0	1	2	3	4	
<b>1 Overall quality of the instructor.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent	3.75	3.75	3.52	-	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%	8
<b>2 Overall quality of the course.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Poor, Fair, Good, Very good, Excellent	3.75	3.75	3.51	-	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%	8
<b>4 The instructor clearly communicated the subject matter.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.75	3.75	3.50	-	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%	8
<b>5 The instructor effectively stimulated my interest.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.88	3.88	3.65	-	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%	8
<b>6 The instructor was appropriately accessible outside of class time.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.88	3.88	3.47	-	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%	8
<b>7 As a result of taking this course, I have a better understanding of factual knowledge, principles and/or theories in this area.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.75	3.75	3.60	-	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%	8
<b>8 This course helped me to improve my ability to analyze, solve problems and/or think critically.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.75	3.75	3.47	-	0%	0%	0%	25%	75%	8
<b>9 This course helped me to understand how this field asks and answers questions.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.63	3.63	3.44	-	0%	0%	0%	38%	63%	8
<b>10 This course challenged me to consider new ideas, concepts, or ways of thinking.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.88	3.88	3.56	-	0%	0%	0%	13%	88%	8

Question and Scale	Instructor	Average Ratings			This Instructor Only					Responses	
		Section	Course	-	Worst Rating	...	Best Rating	0	1		2
<b>11 As a result of taking this course, I am more excited by this field of study.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Strongly disagree, Disagree, Neither agree nor disagree, Agree, Strongly agree	3.71	3.71	3.60	-	0%	0%	14%	0%	86%		7
<b>12 Please rate the difficulty of the course.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Easy 0, 1, 2, 3, Difficult 4	2.50	2.50	2.34	-	0%	0%	63%	25%	13%		8
<b>13 Please rate the amount of work required for this course.</b> Scale: 0 to 4: Very Little 0, 1, 2, 3, Very Much 4	2.50	2.50	2.21	-	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%		8
<b>14 To your knowledge, has there been cheating in this course?</b> Scale: 0 to 1: Y, N	1.00	-	-	-	0%	100%	-	-	-		7

**Comment Suggestion**

This was an excellent course, and Matt was an incredible instructor! I learned a great deal from all of the readings and felt they were appropriately challenging.

I am so glad I took this course. I really enjoyed the readings each week and Matt did a great job of facilitating class discussions. I thought the syllabus was great, and it introduced me to a lot of new texts/authors Matt I d a great professor, and I feel like I learned a lot!

best class ever! amazing professor! i hope he gets tenure or something :)

I think Prof. Shafer is really wonderful! I love how he so thoroughly is able to answer questions and he is genuinely interested in the material. I can really say he's been one of my favorite professors I've had here at Penn.

Awesome course, the lectures were engaging and the reading material was super interesting. Highly recommend to anybody interested in philosophy.

The course content was unique and interesting.

<b>Term</b> Fall 2017	<b>Course</b> WGSS 299 01 - Sex, Knowledge, and Power	<b>Primary Dept</b> WGSS	<b>Primary Division</b> Cross-Divisional	<b>Enrolled:</b> 21
				<b>Responded:</b> 19

**Instructors**

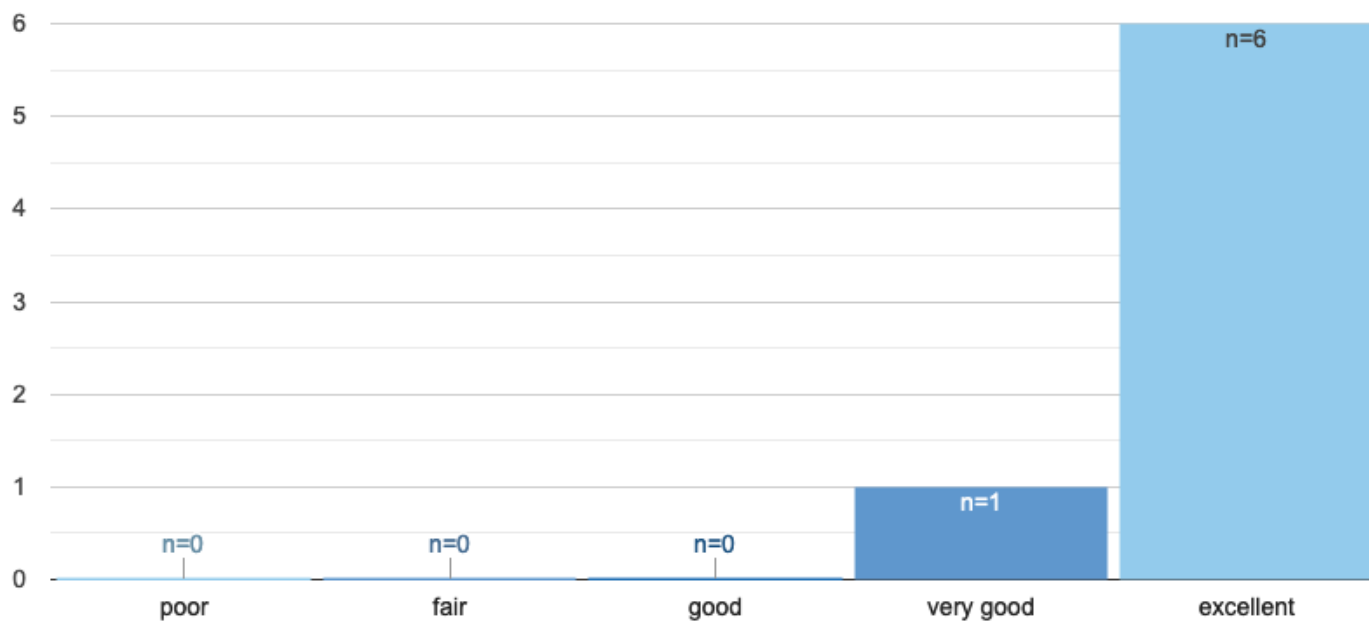
Fischel, Joseph ◊ Grewal, Inderpal

What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 7  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 1

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.9 ±0.4	3.9 ±1.2	4.2 ±1.0	4.0 ±1.1



<b>Term</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Primary Dept</b>	<b>Primary Division</b>	<b>Enrolled:</b>	21
Fall 2017	WGSS 299 01 - Sex, Knowledge, and Power	WGSS	Cross-Divisional	<b>Responded:</b>	19

**Instructors**

Fischel, Joseph ◊ Grewal, Inderpal

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?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 4  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 4

Respondent	Answer
1197347	Strengths: gave lots of feedback on assignments. Made discussion section enjoyable. I really liked when we started getting discussion questions emailed out to us every week, so we knew what exactly to focus on. Weaknesses: Sometimes I felt that the feedback on assignments was unnecessarily long and complicated and could easily be simplified to a couple of sentences to mean exactly the same thing. I thought that the discussion sections could often seem very abstract, which was interesting because it was different than anything else at Yale for me; however, it could be difficult to follow at times. I sometimes wished that we had broken down the readings a bit more in discussion rather than discussing our opinions on it, as I felt like that would have potentially been more helpful.
1198967	Matt was probably one of the best TF's I've had. Explained all the concepts really well, facilitated discussion well, gave thoughtful and helpful feedback.
1202641	Matt was wonderful. Always gave abundant, helpful feedback on student work. Going to Matt's section was the best part of my week.
1213569	Matt was a really wonderful TA and a pleasure to learn from in our section. Week after week he synthesized our discussion questions into a challenging and thought-provoking section that significantly enriched our understanding of the course materials. I really looked forward to his section and felt that his teaching were a highlight of the course. Moreover, he provided extensive comments on each of our reading responses and papers, and I can tell he engaged with our written work in a very deep and thoughtful way.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Primary Dept</b>	<b>Primary Division</b>	<b>Enrolled:</b>	36
Spring 2017	AFAM 186 01/LAST 214 01/PLSC 378 01/SOCY 170 01 - Contesting Injustice	PLSC	Social Sciences	<b>Responded:</b>	26

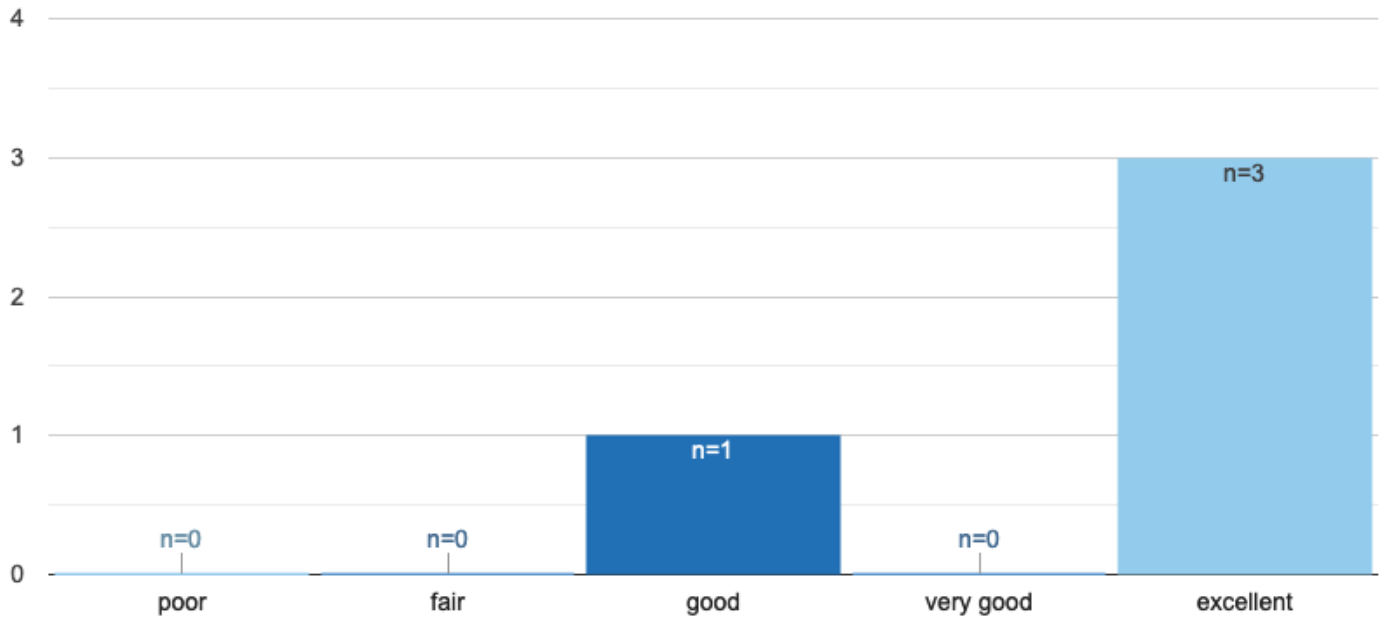
**Instructors**  
Wood, Elisabeth

What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 4  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 2

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.5 ±1.0	4.1 ±1.1	4.0 ±1.1	4.1 ±1.1



<b>Term</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Primary Dept</b>	<b>Primary Division</b>	<b>Enrolled:</b>	36
Spring 2017	AFAM 186 01/LAST 214 01/PLSC 378 01/SOCY 170 01 - Contesting Injustice	PLSC	Social Sciences	<b>Responded:</b>	26

**Instructors**  
Wood, Elisabeth

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?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 2  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 4

Respondent	Answer
1155764	Matt is the greatest TF I've had at Yale. He was truly a gem. I have never met any TF that is so personable and willing to help his students. He was incredibly flexible with his office hours and always made it a point to help the students.
1157646	Matt was a great TF. His comments on my papers were always helpful and definitely helped me improve my skills as a writer. During section, Matt did a great job of clarifying questions/themes from the lectures and readings, and allowing students to guide the discussion.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Primary Dept</b>	<b>Primary Division</b>	<b>Enrolled:</b>	35
Fall 2016	PHIL 474 01/PHIL 674 01/PLSC 326 01/PLSC 580 01 - Borders, Culture & Citizenship	PLSC	Social Sciences	<b>Responded:</b>	27

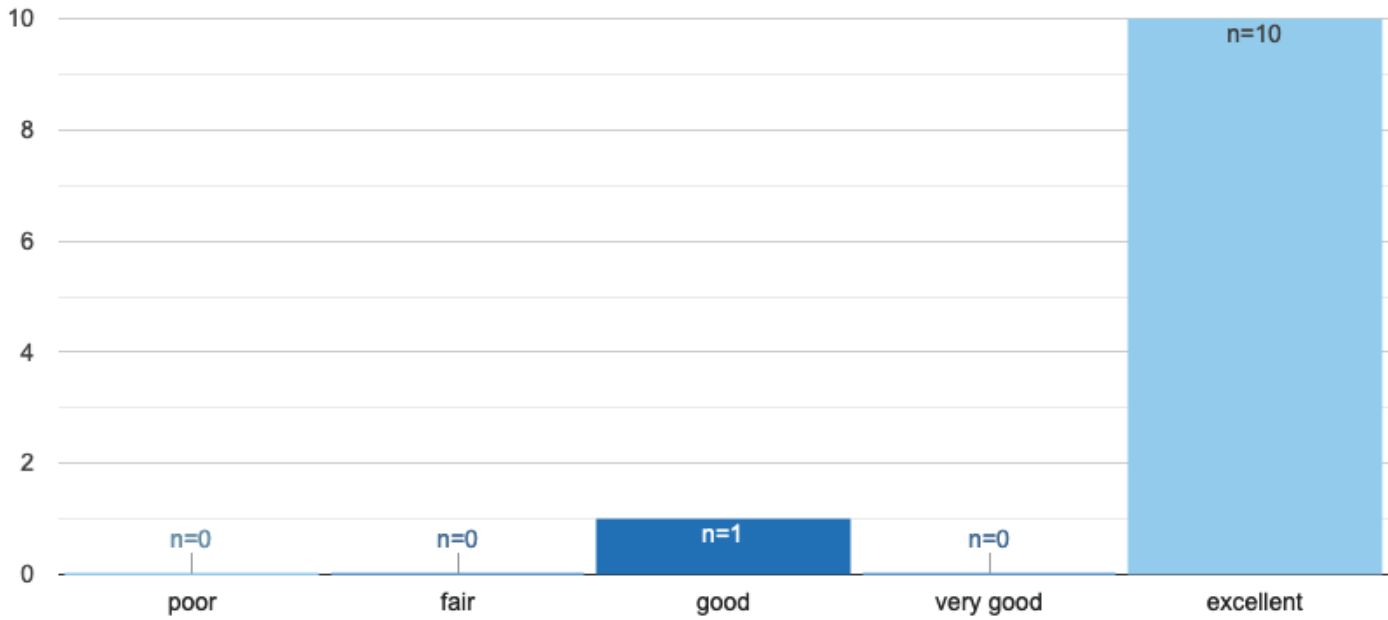
**Instructors**  
Benhabib, Seyla

What is your overall assessment of the Teaching Fellow?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 11  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 0

Question Average	Dept	Div	School
4.8 ±0.6	4.1 ±1.1	3.9 ±1.1	4.0 ±1.1





<b>Term</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Primary Dept</b>	<b>Primary Division</b>	<b>Enrolled:</b>	35
Fall 2016	PHIL 474 01/PHIL 674 01/PLSC 326 01/PLSC 580 01 - Borders, Culture & Citizenship	PLSC	Social Sciences	<b>Responded:</b>	27

**Instructors**

Benhabib, Seyla

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?

**Instructor:** Shafer, Matthew

**Responses for Instructor:** 10  
**Declined to Answer Question:** 1

Respondent	Answer
1102308	Matt was a wonderful TF - one of the best I've had at Yale. Sections were extremely engaging and thought-provoking, often raising as many questions as answers. Matt was extremely fair and helped me improve my writing.
1114855	Whatever Matt is being paid to TA, he should make twice that. By far the best section I've had at Yale--easily exceed the quality of many seminars I've taken. Matt is very helpful on papers, great at leading discussion, and--most importantly--kind. When I would get coffee with him to discuss assignments we would often talk for close to an hour, both about material in the course and also other fun topics in political theory and philosophy. Really cannot recommend him enough.
1121800	Matt was an excellent TF, especially for his first time around. He facilitated group discussion and made it easy for you to express your opinion, especially if you were a little bit unsure about what you were arguing. There was a good balance between trying to understand exactly what various authors were arguing, and interrogating their claims. He made himself incredibly available both over email and in person. It was a pleasure to be in Matt's section.
1122679	Matt was a good TA - I appreciated his extensive feedback on our weekly submissions, and his organization of our questions in section!
1133492	Matthew Shafer was the best teaching fellow I've had at Yale, hands-down. He's so dedicated and committed to the learning of his students, and volunteered his time to help us, above and beyond his call of duty. He was there for us when we emailed him at odd hours, and offered immense help, feedback and insight in our writing of essays. He was an attentive section leader who facilitated discussion sensitively and thoughtfully. Matt enhanced my learning in this class immensely. Not only that, he made this class deeply enjoyable and pleasurable. I can't be more grateful. Thank you Matt!
1133552	Strengths: - Extremely dedicated--went above and beyond in making himself available to students for guidance/responding to students' papers and reading responses - Very insightful seminar leader - Gave very useful feedback Room for improvement: - I think Matt can still improve his balance between participating and guiding a seminar such that the conversation flourishes
1135744	Matt was without a doubt the best TF I have had at Yale. His responses to our reading responses were thoughtful, thorough, and engaging, and I found it impressive that he had the time and wherewithal to write about fifteen of these responses a week. It showed an investment in his students that will serve him well in the future. In class, he was energetic and well-prepared. He would give a mini-lecture for the first ten minutes or so of class, and it would open up the material and clarify some of the more obscure points of the authors we read. I am extremely grateful for his teaching!

**Respondent**   **Answer**

1138658      Matt was a great TF. Our discussions were always interesting, and he did a good job of making them discussion based rather than regurgitating material. Our reading responses were clearly read and integrated into the discussion, so we always spoke about what we had found most interesting. Matt is clearly passionate about the material, and did a great job leading the discussion.

1139393      Incredible feedback; Matt succeed at reaching out to his students in terms of organizing the course. He was accessible and responsive to the individual needs of students in a way that facilitated their learning. While his sections wavered in their focus at times, that, by no means, detracted from their productivity. We were very lucky to have him as our TF.

1146844      Matt Shafer was one of the best TFs I have had thus far at Yale. He was incredibly conscious of his own position to mediate discussion in section, and this made a huge difference, as toward the beginning of the semester he tended to dominate the discussion and analysis but eventually assumed the well-balanced role of mediating student discussion and responding to/putting forth ideas. I benefited hugely from the feedback he provided, which constantly pushed us to think more about our ideas and readings of the texts (he gave lengthy personal responses via email each week to every student's reading responses). He also offered incredibly insightful and helpful feedback on essay outlines and drafts and was very open and easy to meet with in office hours. He did a great job of making himself as available as possible to all of us, and it was always easy to reach him and discuss and receive feedback on ideas. Sections with Matt played a huge role in what I gained from this class, given that I felt the lectures by Prof Benhabib did not move enough past summarization of the texts, and thus I feel that I would have had a much less positive experience in this course if not for the fact that I had a great and very engaged TF.