

ABIGAIL S. POST

Teaching Evaluations

I have solo-taught one course, *Speech and Diplomacy in International Relations*, of nineteen students. I have led discussion sections for four courses across seven semesters (3 sections of 20 students per semester, totaling 420 students): *Introduction to International Relations* during Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, and Fall 2015; *Military Force in International Relations* for Fall 2013; *American Foreign Policy* for Fall 2014, and *Ethics and Human Rights in World Politics* for Spring 2016. Course evaluations from individual courses are available upon request and through my website.

As a Graduate Teacher's Assistant for eight semesters,¹ I was primarily responsible for the instruction of 60 students per semester by leading three weekly, hour-long discussion sections that are an extension of the primary lecture period. In this role, I designed my own lesson plans, held weekly office hours, and had full grading responsibilities. My effectiveness in the classroom is attested by my course evaluations. Across all eight semesters as a Graduate Instructor, 95% of students responded that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that I am an effective teacher; during my solo-led class, all but one student concurred. Students consistently rank me highly on a 1-5 scale, with my average score on each question exceeding the departmental average. Students say that my greatest strength as a teacher is fair treatment of all opinions and ideas.

¹There were no discussion sections for *Theories of International Relations* during Spring 2015, so I did not receive course evaluations for that semester.

Student Evaluations of Teaching (Quantitative)

Course	Term	I learned a great deal in this course	Overall, this was a worthwhile course.	The course's goals and requirements were defined and adhered to by the instructor.	The instructor was approachable and made herself available to students outside the classroom	Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher	Overall Course Evaluation (out of 5)
PLIR 3500, Speech and Diplomacy	Summer 2017	4.50 <i>4.42</i>	4.58 <i>4.41</i>	4.67 <i>4.55</i>	4.83 <i>4.59</i>	4.75 <i>4.48</i>	4.67* <i>4.49</i>
PLIR 3310, Ethics and Human Rights	Sp 2016	4.44 <i>4.19</i>	4.36 <i>4.10</i>	4.56 <i>4.42</i>	4.75 <i>4.52</i>	4.71 <i>4.40</i>	4.56 <i>4.33</i>
PLIR 1010, Introduction to International Relations	F 2015	4.58 <i>4.26</i>	4.57 <i>4.24</i>	4.68 <i>4.45</i>	4.76 <i>4.54</i>	4.76 <i>4.39</i>	4.67 <i>4.38</i>
PLIR 3400, American Foreign Policy	F 2014	4.73 <i>4.39</i>	4.68 <i>4.37</i>	4.78 <i>4.49</i>	4.87 <i>4.59</i>	4.78 <i>4.49</i>	4.77 <i>4.47</i>
PLIR 1010, Introduction to International Relations	Sp 2014	4.32 <i>4.02</i>	4.13 <i>3.99</i>	4.41 <i>4.25</i>	4.50 <i>4.41</i>	4.25 <i>4.25</i>	4.32 <i>4.18</i>
PLIR 3060, Military Force in International Relations	F 2013	4.45 <i>4.32</i>	4.52 <i>4.48</i>	4.51 <i>4.47</i>	4.53 <i>4.48</i>	4.58 <i>4.35</i>	4.52 <i>4.42</i>
PLIR 1010, Introduction to International Relations	Sp 2013	4.50 <i>4.13</i>	4.49 <i>4.15</i>	4.71 <i>4.37</i>	4.74 <i>4.46</i>	4.66 <i>4.33</i>	4.62 <i>4.29</i>
PLIR 1010, Introduction to International Relations	F 2012	4.32 <i>4.18</i>	4.13 <i>4.12</i>	4.47 <i>4.36</i>	4.61 <i>4.42</i>	4.52 <i>4.31</i>	4.41 <i>4.28</i>
Overall Category Evaluation (out of 5)	All	4.48 <i>4.21</i>	4.43 <i>4.21</i>	4.60 <i>4.40</i>	4.70 <i>4.49</i>	4.63 <i>4.36</i>	4.55 <i>4.33</i>

Note: **bold** scores represent the average across the sections I taught for each course, except for PLIR 3500; *italicized* scores indicate the ranking of other political science instructors/teaching assistants that semester.

* PLIR 3500 included one student who disliked UVA's summer program. I drop these scores here.

Student Evaluations of Teaching (Qualitative)

Overall Teaching Ability

- Professor Post was one of the most organized and well-planned teachers I have had so far at UVA. Our class readings/resources were perfectly correlated to match the day's lesson, which made it much easier for students to keep up with the syllabus during our condensed summer session. Each lesson/activity was thoroughly planned out beforehand and as a result things ran very smoothly without disruption. (PLIR 3500, Summer 2017)
- Could not say enough great things about Abby! She is incredibly knowledgeable and creates an environment that allows for great discussion! She presents all views on issues and is very supportive of everyone. It was easily the most enriching discussion class for me, and I was able to expand on our learning from the lectures. 10 stars out of 5. (PLIR 1010, Fall 2015)
- Her discussion sections are meticulously organized, and never fail to cover the breadth of material that we need to learn each week. She holds us to a high standard, but is generally clear about her expectations and willing to do everything in her power to help us achieve our goals. She is always completely prepared for section, is willing to admit when she isn't sure about the answer to a question, and encourages us to think independently. She is kind and genuine, and it is clear that she truly cares about her students. (PLIR 3400, Fall 2014)

Fairness

- Abby treated everyone fairly... that is probably her biggest strength as a teacher. She never questioned a student's belief or perception of the world, and often let discussions go where we took them as long as they were appropriate and somewhat relevant to the material. (PLIR 1010, Fall 2015)
- Politics can be a sensitive issue and Abigail encouraged everyone to contribute and feel comfortable in expressing their viewpoints. Abigail also treated everyone fairly. It was clear she had a genuine interest in helping us succeed in this class. I always felt welcomed to express my on viewpoints and contribute to class. (PLIR 1010, Spring 2013)
- I felt that she was welcoming of alternative viewpoints but at the same time, she wasn't afraid to gently correct incorrect answers. (PLIR 1010, Fall 2012)

Critical Thinking Skills

- I feel I learned a great deal, and grew as a writer over the course of the session. Abby made herself constantly available, and was very helpful in aiding students improve their writing skills and succinctly formatting their ideas. Great course! (PLIR 3500, Summer 2017)

- Yes. I have now had Abby twice and feel she is very good at critiquing writing and her discussions help to clarify issues from class. (PLIR 3400, Fall 2014)
- This discussion session helped me participate and learn to think more critically, making it worth my time. (PLIR 1010, Spring 2013)

Communicating Material

- Professor Post was extremely helpful in office hours and had a clear lesson plan that was easy to follow. While I felt challenged throughout the course, the professor was always willing to assist us through any problems we encountered. (PLIR 3500, Summer 2017)
- Abigail is a wonderful TA who pushes students to engage with the material through various activities. She also does a great job at clarifying difficult material by not only re-explaining it but also by creating activities that make it more relatable. (PLIR 3310, Spring 2016)
- She encouraged active participation from the entire discussion, and it showed with almost the entire class participating in the discussions. If we had any questions about assignments, the readings or exams she was always there to help and give her input on the topics. (PLIR 3310, Spring 2016)
- I really liked how she varied the structure of each discussion, including debates, writing, example questions, and further lecturing. (PLIR 1010, Fall 2015)
- I have to say that I think Abby is one of the best Teaching Assistants I have had at UVa. She really knows the material and explains it in a way that makes people interested and capable to comprehend sufficiently. (PLIR 3400, Fall 2014)