

Evidence of Teaching Effectiveness

Francesca Parente

Instructor Evaluations

Note: Full evaluations of all courses are available upon request.

Questions

All questions on a 1–9 scale, where 1 indicates “Very low or never” and 9 indicates “Very high or always.”

- **Concern:** “The instructor was concerned about student learning.”
- **Interaction:** “Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.”
- **Course:** “Your overall rating of the course.”
- **Instructor:** “Your overall rating of the instructor.”

Ratings

	Quarter	Concern	Interaction	Course	Instructor
International Law	Summer 2017	8.25	8.50	8.39	8.46
International Law	Summer 2018	8.19	8.18	8.41	8.59

Selected Student Comments

- Professor Parente has a gift for breaking down complex concepts and topics into understandable bitesize pieces. Her lecture outlines (available in advance) are very helpful for notetaking and segmenting like topics and short reference lists. International Law being the mess of conundrums that it is, she finds contemporary and conversational portals into the topics to make it more organized. Her class reader and materials did a great job of boiling down the most important points without superfluous details that might weight down understanding, and her collaboration with other professors comes through in her lectures; she is mindful of areas that have proven difficult for students in the past and takes extra care to give those topics extra attention and regularly invite questions from even the quietest or more timid students. I would happily take another class with her again. (*Summer 2018*)
- The class itself is not an easy one; however, Parente is an excellent lecturer. Her lecture is extremely organized and provide great insight into the topics. In addition, she is very clear. She provides materials, like worksheets, to make the material easier, such as the law cases. She is engaging and is constantly thinking of ways to help us learn the material, which is greatly appreciated. She is very helpful and clearly cares out her students. (*Summer 2018*)
- I really enjoyed this class. Parente is possibly the clearest and most straightforward teacher I’ve ever had, and even on a subject that can get a little confusing with all the Latin. The lecture outlines are VERY helpful in note taking and allow me to know what the main points are before coming in so that I already am tuned into what exactly the important information is. She mentioned in class that the quizzes were written so that they were difficult on purpose (and I heard some students complain), however I think that they were great. They made us focus on the most important information in a way that ensures we understood the whole point of the previous week (rather than quizzing on unnecessary details). I really enjoy Parente’s strong and stable demeanor and would happily take a class being taught by her again and would recommend her to a friend in a heartbeat. (*Summer 2017*)

- Prof. Parente is an excellent instructor. I would highly recommend anyone to take a class that she is teaching. She’s super concise but at the same time always ensures that the class has an understanding of the concepts she is presenting. I really like that she is straightforward and approachable. Her lectures were fast-paced (in a good way) and engaging. I always felt that her material is very clear and that she doesn’t assign an insane amount of readings like some other professors do. It’s clear that she has a commitment to seeing her students gain an understanding of the material she is teaching and that’s so great to see in a professor. I really enjoyed the short 6 weeks with her and hope she will be teaching more courses in the upcoming year. (*Summer 2017*)

T.A. Evaluations

Note: Full evaluations for all courses are available upon request.

Questions

All questions on a 1–9 scale, where 1 indicates “Very low or never” and 9 indicates “Very high or always.”

- **Concern:** “The T.A. was concerned about student learning.”
- **Interaction:** “Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.”
- **Value:** “The overall value of the sections justified your time and effort.”
- **T.A.:** “What is your overall rating of the teaching assistant?”

Courses

- **PS 20:** World Politics (Prof. Robert Trager)
- **PS 123A:** International Law (Prof. Leslie Johns)
- **PS 123B:** International Organization (Prof. Leslie Johns)
- **PS 134:** Foreign Policy Decision-Making (Prof. Arthur Stein)
- **PS 137:** International Relations Theory (Prof. Arthur Stein)

Ratings

All scores are averaged over three sections, except scores for PS 20, which are averaged over four sections.

	Quarter	Concern	Interaction	Value	T.A.
Overall		8.57	8.58	8.52	8.61
PS 123A	Spring 2018	8.49	8.26	8.46	8.61
PS 134	Winter 2018	8.57	8.65	8.36	8.52
PS 123A	Fall 2017	8.74	8.54	8.65	8.57
PS 20	Spring 2017	8.68	8.64	8.34	8.68
PS 123A	Winter 2017	8.75	8.76	8.81	8.79
PS 137	Fall 2016	8.70	8.65	8.59	8.74
PS 123B	Spring 2015	8.14	8.40	8.36	8.42
PS 123A	Fall 2014	8.52	8.70	8.57	8.56

Selected Student Comments

- I have thoroughly enjoyed having Francesca as a TA. Her strengths include her organization of section time and material, the interactivity of the discussions, and her knowledgeability of the material. I found the sessions incredibly rewarding and helpful to gaining proficiency of the class material. I appreciate the structure of the class, and found that the weekly quizzes kept me engaged and active in the readings and participation. Francesca is personable and welcoming, and I truly wish I could have been able to attend office hours, but could not due to my schedule. She offered rescheduling to accommodate students with conflicts on multiple occasions, but I felt that the material was so clearly laid out by her and Johns that it would not be necessary. I believe Francesca will make an excellent instructor/professor in the future, and I wish her the best in completing her graduate studies and moving on to what are certainly bright prospects. (*PS 123A, Spring 2018*)
- Francesca was helpful, organized, approachable and fair. I was impressed by her ability to organized the momentous amounts of assigned readings into themes and informational structures which helped expand on and explain course topics. She was engaging, gave the class opportunities to grow their knowledge, and made herself available in as many ways as possible. She required actual substance from students which made section far more meaningful than those run by TAs who are “purposefully blind” to those who do not put in any effort and those who do. While fair, her willingness to reward effort was refreshing and demanding. Francesca demonstrated a consistent and genuine concern for her student’s grasp of material and success as learners. She is clearly on top of it and this provided a sense of safety and structure for the classroom. (*PS 134, Winter 2018*)
- Francesca added much needed structure to very ambiguous and sometimes challenging course material. Had it not been for her, I may have been tempted to drop the class. Section was absolutely essential to my success in this class, and Francesca did an excellent job of orchestrating it. She is very skilled at clearly explaining the theories in lecture and the logic of how they apply to the very lengthy readings which was much needed in this course! Professor Stein said “we are lucky to have her” at the beginning of the course and he wasn’t wrong! (*PS 134, Winter 2018*)
- Parente will make an excellent professor should she ever choose that profession. She is well versed in the subject matter and effectively teaches the material. Something that really made a difference in this class was the fact that Francesca could always break down the material and make it understandable. I would say that if I understood any of the court cases we had for section readings, it was because of Francesca. The material is so dense that I would come to section as confused as a barking cat, and by God did she make me understand the readings. She has a great sense of humor, a fresh take on teaching, and a lot of energy. I never went to section hoping for it to be over already, and as a fourth year I think that says a lot about how fun and important Francesca made the section. Trust me when I say, it really did not have so much to do with the readings, which were frustrating and dry. It was because Francesca is a great teacher. (*PS 123A, Fall 2017*)
- Class discussions were always very organized and helpful! TA was very knowledgeable about the material and was able to explain what was covered in lecture better than the professor. Overall TA was very passionate and engaged with the class material which made me want to go to section and work harder in the class. (*PS 20, Spring 2017*)
- Francesca was very knowledgeable over the material taught at lectures and discussed in section. She facilitated learning through the provision of charts and worksheets, in which they were extremely useful in allowing me to further understand the material. In addition, she was welcoming outside lecture, in which I felt welcome to seek answers for any questions. In overall, Francesca was a great TA for this course. (*PS 20, Spring 2017*)
- Francesca is easily one of the best TAs I have ever had at UCLA. On top of her mastery of the class material (seriously!), she is incredibly well organized. You can tell that she truly cares about her student’s learning and that she spends a lot of time and work outside of class to make sure she can teach the material in an understandable way. She goes the extra 3 miles and is always available to her students. She is also fun during sections, keeping her students engaged. Another strength of hers is that she is very empathetic to her student’s situations and understands how hectic college-life can be. I cannot say enough good things about her! (*PS 123A, Winter 2017*)

- Francesca is literally the best TA I have ever had. Discussion section was incredibly organized and she was able to help me understand the material in a new and innovative way. The class handouts she provided were also amazing and broke down the information into digestible pieces. Besides her amazing organizational skills and ability to explain concepts, Francesca clearly has a serious passion for the material that was infectious. I left every discussion engaged and more interested in the material than when class started. I plan on actively seeking her out when taking more upper division classes and think she will make an incredible professor in her own right. Thank you Francesca!!! (*PS 123A, Winter 2017*)
- Francesca is probably one of the best T.A.'s I have ever had at UCLA. She was always extremely organized, very knowledgeable about the subject, and very patient and kind to all students. She understood our concerns and questions at a student's level which created an easygoing environment. I always looked forward to attending her discussion because she significantly added to the course as a whole. (*PS 137, Fall 2016*)
- Francesca Parente is one of the most impressive T.A.s that I have ever had at UCLA. She is very knowledgeable about the subject matter and is able to break down the course material in a easy to follow guide. Her biggest strength is how knowledgeable she is about the subject matter. She was able to answer questions that we had about the readings, because she was reading the material with us. Her second biggest strength was her concern for student learning. She understood where students would have the most difficulty with the readings. So, she developed a system of dissecting the readings so that we could understand the gist of the writer's arguments. She was a very thoughtful and understanding T.A. and for that I am very thankful. Another positive quality that she has is the way in which she grades exams. When she returned midterm exams, she outlined what she was looking for on each exam question we chose to answer and how many points each correct answer was worth. She also did the math and gave everyone the mean, mode, and median of the course. So we could know how we did against our peers. This was wonderful and much appreciated. Aside from that, Francesca always came prepared to discussion. She always engaged the class in a very constructive way and her hard work really showed. She went above and beyond for her sections and that is rarely seen in T.A. Thank you, Francesca! (*PS 137, Fall 2016*)