

TEACHING FELLOW EVALUATION

Course Title: GLBL 185 / PLSC 342 "CAUSE & EFFECT: RESEARCH DESIGN IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES"
 Term: Fall 2012
 Instructor: Thad Dunning
 TF: Malte Lierl

This discussion section/teaching fellow evaluation was carried out end of the course, in addition to the regular course evaluation that focused on the lecture and the main instructor. All responses are reported. The students submitted their answers anonymously through a web form. No background questions (major, class year, gender) were asked which could reveal respondent's identity. All 18 students who took the class for credit responded to the evaluation survey.

OPEN-ENDED FEEDBACK

What did you like best about your GLBL 185 / PLSC 342 teaching fellow?
Very likable, very responsive to students concerns, very accessible, excellent knowledge of course materials.
Very kind
Good at explaining concepts to make them understandable. Very knowledgeable about the field.
Patient, unassuming.
Malte did an excellent job at applying theoretical concepts to real-world studies covered in class and in section.
Malte is very kind and wants to help us understand anything we have a question about. I never felt judged for asking a stupid question--he's very enthusiastic about any contribution.
He really cares about the students and he is very encouraging. He also takes the time to help you understand. He also makes himself available.
Our teaching fellow effectively answered questions and was able to provide feedback in a timely manner.
Malte was responsive to inquiries and was generally pretty helpful with the research paper.
He is really excited about the material and is very willing to help and give feedback. He is readily available and excited to help.
Very flexible in his teaching style, adapts to students' concerns and interests. Very good at explaining concepts, no matter how complex or simple. Great lecturing style that communicates enthusiasm for the material.
Extremely intelligent and invested in the subject matter.
He was very open and willing to help his students. He was approachable. He took a genuine interest in our concerns and inquiries. He worked hard to help us as much as possible we sought it.
Enthusiasm with the course content and willingness to support students who are struggling with material. Very helpful and knowledgeable, with very interesting research undertakings (that I would have loved to learn more about in addition to the one hour class).

Suggestions for improvement

More engaging presentation style

Room for improvement in keeping track of time and making sure we get through all the material.

Clarify jargon in explanations.

I felt like sometimes in section we went over material we had already covered in class, so sometimes it was difficult not to zone out. This was definitely out of concern for our understanding, and perhaps other students found it helpful.

n/a

Just a few suggestions for improvement. Sometimes it was difficult to follow section because our TF wasn't as clear as I would have liked. I do not know whether to attribute this to speed of presentation or my lack of understanding of the material. Times when I found it most difficult to follow the course include some of the R stat program training sessions.

Having more flexible office hours would be helpful but I realize that is a difficult request.

I don't think Malte could have much control over this, but our homework assignment for R was too difficult for the limited time we had with R. Inexperienced R users found the assignment very difficult. Malte understood this, but I'm surprised that the Professor did not address it. I'm glad Malte was understanding and sympathetic toward our concerns, however.

Would be nice if students could be encouraged to follow or pursue interests that are outside of the class but related to the content, to help motivate. Would have liked to learn more about Malte's research interests, and also earlier section times.

Your overall feedback...

Good class, though I believe the section time spent on R didn't add to the class, and could have been better used to lay strong foundations for final papers

Good job!

Malte was a very committed TA, and gave great feedback on our research proposals.

I think the class would better serve its students if the Professor assumed no previous knowledge about causality. Defining terms early on is helpful. As well as talking about the uses of R more in the classroom. I also think research methods can be more interesting and helpful when there are presentations. I thought Malte's presentation on his own work was excellent. I appreciate the readings (like Elisabeth Woods) but I think it would have been interesting to hear what Professor Dunning does and why he chose certain methodologies over others.

Overall, I think that our TF did an amazing job at leading discussion section. He was very helpful throughout the semester and was clear in answering my questions and providing me with feedback. Great job!

Thanks for your help!

Thank you for a great semester!

Awesome job!

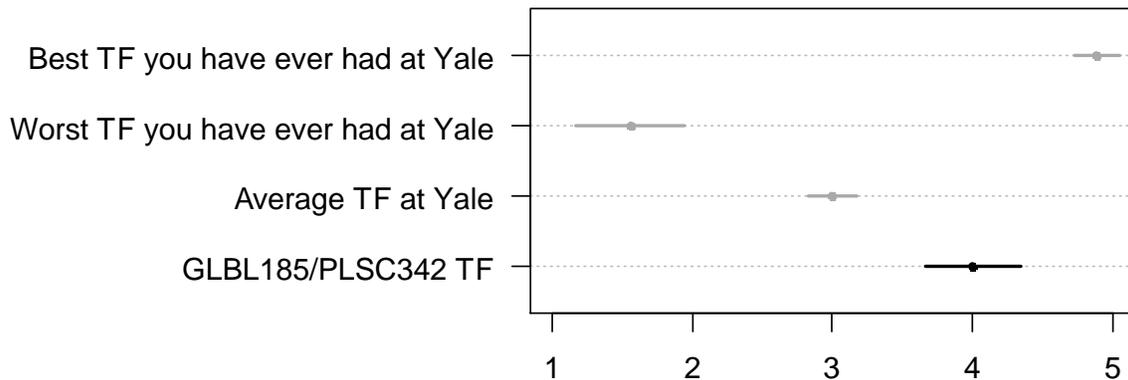
Great class, really great job overall by the TF. Malte is a nice person and obviously brilliant. Enjoyed the class and the sections. Merry Christmas!

Great! I would love to take a class taught solely by Malte.

Thank you!

OVERALL QUALITY

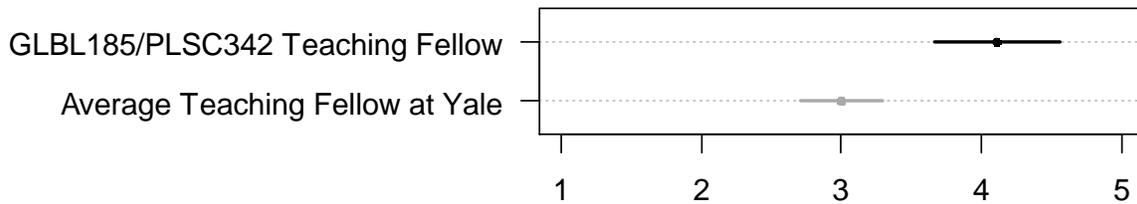
On a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best), rate the overall quality of the following teaching fellows:



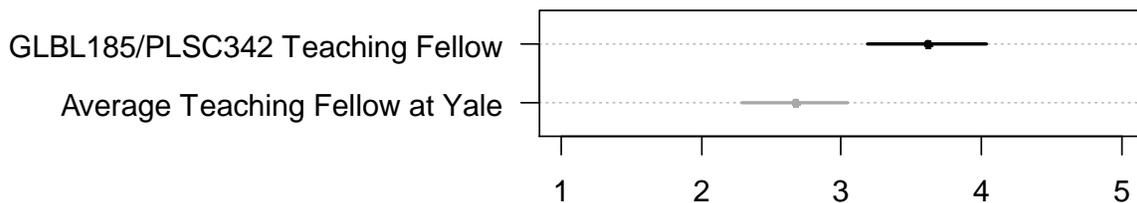
DETAILED EVALUATION

On a scale from 1 (worst) to 5 (best), rate your GLBL 185 / PLSC 342 teaching fellow and the “average TF at Yale” along the following dimensions:

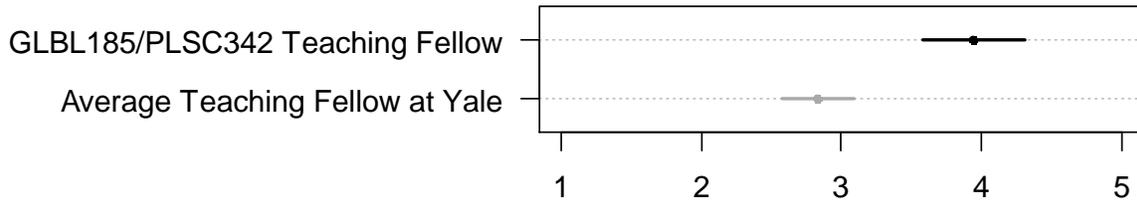
Commitment to helping students succeed in the course



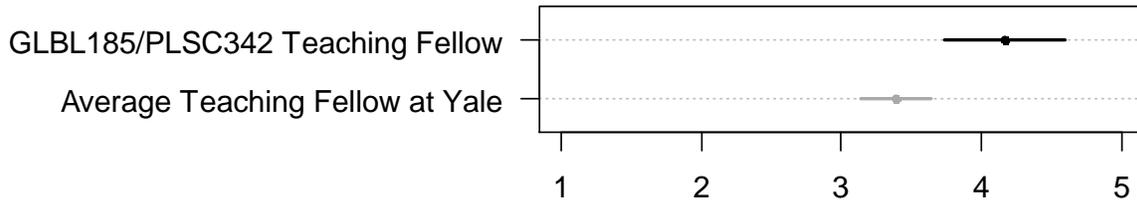
Commitment to students’ college/career success beyond the course



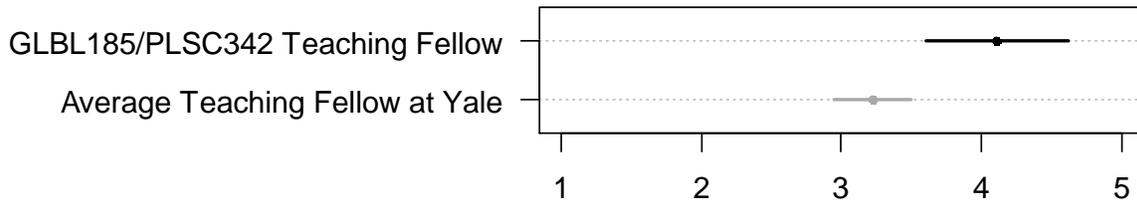
Interest in and willingness to incorporate student feedback during the semester



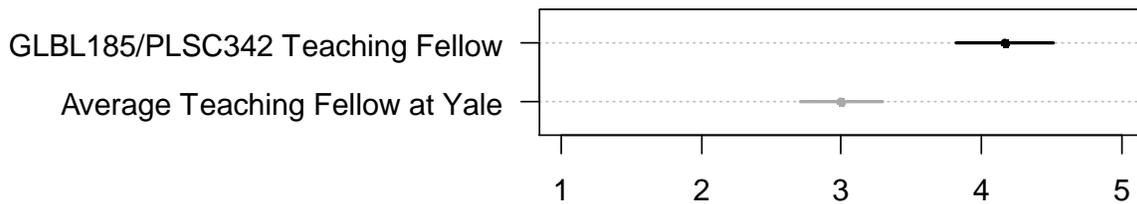
Fairness in grading



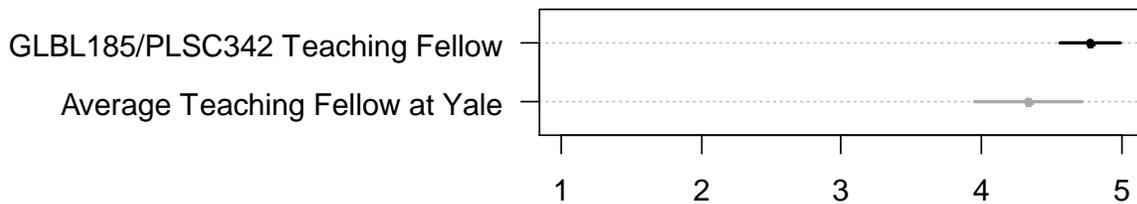
Responsiveness to inquiries and willingness to provide in-person feedback at designated meeting times



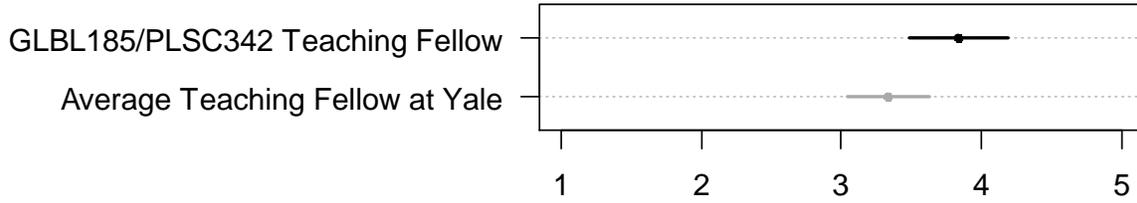
Extent and quality of personalized feedback on assignments, research proposals, etc.



Concern for maintaining an inclusive and discrimination-free classroom environment



Lecturing/presentation skills



Got me interested in a topic or motivated me to delve deeper into previous interests

