

Elizabeth Phillips

Sample Student Evaluations – Harvard University Teaching 2014-2017

From Political Theater Spring 2017 (4.80/5 – Bok Award)

“Liz is everything you want in a TF (and one day, hopefully soon, in a professor). She is engaging and helpful with the material. She facilitates discussion effectively, but also leaves room for students to grow and debate with each other. She gave incredibly detailed and timely feedback on our paper proposals and papers. She is clearly very insightful into the academic writing process; her comments are both sagacious and accessible. More than any of these points, she is an extraordinarily positive presence as a teacher and mentor.”

“Liz was such a wonderful presence in section, pushing us towards better commentary and creating a delightful, enjoyable, inspiring work environment. I'd love to discuss theater with her any day of the week.”

From Carceral Drama Spring 2017 (4.67/5)

“Liz acted as more than a teacher, she was really a mentor to all three of us, and I can't thank her enough for that. She is so insightful, patient, and understanding of the theater process. It is rare to come across someone who understands academia AND theater-making. What more could you ask for in a TDM TF?”

From The Book Was Better Spring 2016 (4.80/5 – Bok and Balson Awards)

“Liz is the best teacher I have had at Harvard. Her enthusiasm for literature, her willingness to go outside of her comfort zone with our readings, her dedication to each and every one of us, and her (sometimes tough-love) honesty made for a wonderful experience from start to finish.”

“Liz went above all my expectations for the junior tutorial, giving incredible feedback, generating impactful discussions, and lending a spirit and energy to each meeting. She truly cared about our unique sets of interests and often incorporated them into discussions, pointing us toward artists, films, and plays we would find interesting. Overall, Liz made the junior tutorial an amazing experience of which I feel lucky to have been a part!”

“This class more than any other I have taken at Harvard visibly improved my writing. The small group and intensive discussion made for really meaningful class time, and Liz was able to devote personal attention to each one of us, giving us thoughtful feedback on every single assignment and emotional guidance as we navigated junior papers and thesis proposals.”

“Best junior tutorial. (But actually, whenever I told other English students about our tutorial they were always jealous.)”

From Essential Works Fall 2015 (4.77/5 - Bok Award)

“Liz was fantastic. She has helped my essay writing more in one semester than many of my high school teachers did in 4 years. She gave fair and constructive comments and was always available and willing to talk about class or papers or exams. She made this class fantastic.”

“Liz is wonderful. I've never had a teacher give such detailed, thoughtful advice about my writing, not only addressing its structure and syntax, but helping to better craft the argument.”

“Liz is so knowledgeable and has a great way of synthesizing the mess that discussions can turn into and refocusing the group with a quick summary or question about the root of the ‘problem’ at hand. Her conferences are a god-send. Her mind is just so sharp and constructive, it makes all of her teaching/comments amazing”

“Liz was so incredible! She was always available to go over any of the issues we faced while writing our papers. She was kind in her teaching, but never failed to criticize our work in a very constructive way. She helped me personally figure out the flaws in my writing. I've become a better writer throughout the semester and she has been the key in that.”

“Liz was one of the best English/writing educators I've ever had. She was clearly so passionate about the literature as well as the craft of writing. She was nuanced and meticulous in her teaching - namely, in the feedback she gave us on our papers, both in writing and in person. She was friendly, approachable, and inspiring in every regard. She encouraged me to take my writing more seriously - to carefully dissect my weaknesses and use them as starting points on a path of improvement. She also taught me how to take criticism and channel it into growth.”

“Liz is great!!! I feel like a lot of teachers are either great in a lecture setting or one-on-one, but Liz is amazing in both. Her assignment feedback was always super helpful and she was always willing to engage with you on ideas. Whenever I had questions, she wouldn't just tell me the answer, but we would have a discussion about it. She was an excellent TF.”

“Liz was always willing to meet, and got our papers back to us with specific, implementable feedback she could further elaborate on in person. She patiently listened to my brainstorming and helped guide it toward a useful implementation I could turn into an interesting thesis and paper. In the classroom, she always pushed us to follow up on our points and tie them to one another's or to a text's larger significance, often offering critical questions or anecdotes she'd come up with and leading by example. Liz was a critical component of my wonderful experience in Humanities 10A.”

From Shakespeare's Early Works Spring 2015 (4.86/5 - Bok Award)

“Elizabeth was a great TF in that she genuinely wanted each of us to engage with the texts and learn something; she consistently challenged us to think critically about the plays we were reading over the course of the semester. She fostered a great section environment, in which everyone seemed to feel comfortable participating. I especially appreciated her writing conferences; the

advice she offered was always spot-on, and I feel like her direction truly helped me write better responses.”

“Elizabeth was a wonderful section leader. I felt that she helped my section to develop a comfortable environment for discussing and challenging each other's views on the plays. I benefited greatly from our discussions and from the google doc dialogue that we kept throughout the semester. I loved attending section!”

“Elizabeth was great. She pushed us beyond the content and really did a fantastic job engaging us in each section.”

“Liz is AMAZING! I love having section with her and I felt so encouraged and motivated to deeply engage in the material and discussion. Section added to lecture, not just echoed it.”

“Elizabeth gave great feedback, and maintained a great balance between participation and discussion and mini lectures about the plays. she was an awesome section leader, following what we were doing in lecture but also letting us take the conversation in the direction we wanted.”

“Elizabeth was an incredible TF. She was fun and accessible while also communicating rigorously intellectual and academic ideas. Being in her section was not only a downright joy, it also was amazingly enriching and engaging. Liz made me love Shakespeare in a way I never have before, and for that I will always be grateful to her.”

“Hands down the best section I've ever had.”

“Elizabeth is one of the rare few TF's that I have found to be a truly remarkable educator. She is accessible and inviting, and always goes the extra length to make you feel comfortable about the course material and help you learn to the best of your ability. Incredibly skilled.”

From Essential Works Fall 2014 (4.63/5 – Bok Award)

“Elizabeth added a lot to our Hum10a class this semester as a TF. Her theatre background along with her clear passion and deep understanding for the works of the course allowed her to present new angles and perspectives on our discussions and stances. She served as a great bridge between the students and our professor, and she connected well with everyone in the class. Finally, she provided very helpful, constructive feedback on all response papers and midterm papers, helping to develop my writing. She was always available as a resource before papers were due and was very helpful in helping to organize my ideas and structure my essays in ways that guided me towards clear, concise and thorough arguments.”

“Elizabeth is THE BEST. She is enthusiastic about the material and provides very helpful feedback on assignments. She works hard to bring everyone into the discussion and uses engaging activities to stimulate understanding of the material.”

“Elizabeth was a great TF to have, particularly for Hum 10, where the professors are often too busy or intimidating to reach out to. Elizabeth was highly accessible during office hours and by appointment, and her guidance on essays was invaluable to me. She is highly organized and articulate, and her guidance in section was integral to the course. Also, she was clearer than anyone regarding essay tips on how to structure arguments and approach difficult topics. Elizabeth gave memorable advice to me and was a very effective and dedicated TF.”

“I can't say enough about Elizabeth's willingness to make herself available and her outstanding ability to provide insight into the way a critical mind looks at literature. Elizabeth was wonderful. The lecture on Ulysses was excellent! Elizabeth has always been available and clear with her advice. We all really appreciated the marathon paper consultations, and her feedback on assignments really helped me improve as I went forward.”