

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alisa Pipic and I am a student at Temple University. Florian Pohl was my instructor in Introduction to Islam class in spring 2004 semester.

In his class, Mr. Pohl has showed great passion for the subject as well as enthusiasm to teach. He was very professional with his students but very friendly too, which made me very comfortable to participate. His enthusiasm, sense of humor, energy and respect for his students has created a positive atmosphere where every student became active in discussions. I believe that a good professor should be able to make his students feel comfortable and appreciated as well as keep the professionalism of the student-professor relationship. Mr. Pohl has demonstrated this role.

His attitude and personality were both very appropriate and he gave everyone an equal chance to participate and succeed in his class. He was always available before and after class as well as outside of classroom for students who needed clarification on assignments and topics covered in class. This has made this writing and reading intensive class easier on me because I knew I could count on Mr. Pohl to help me. He also answered emails promptly and always ensured us that he was available. He was extremely helpful with the long assignments and his feedback about our work helped a lot for the future papers due. His assignments were hard I must admit, but his construction of assignments and paper topics has made me think more critically which I find to be very helpful.

Materials used in this course were also very helpful. The syllabus contained everything we needed to do for the semester, which help me organize his assignments along with assignments of other classes. I particularly liked how Mr. Pohl supplied us with topics that we had to write our major papers on. This helped me think in advance and prepare for it better rather than having only a week to read the material and write a six page paper on it. Texts were also very helpful especially since they were written well by great authors. I did not find any of the texts tedious. Also, the papers due were all based on the books assigned therefore I did not have to hustle with doing too much research. Reading material assigned went well hand in hand with class discussions, which helped me understand the material well. Visual materials were also very helpful. We were introduced to dilemmas of being a Muslim in American society through a documentary video clip of an Arab family in America. This I found to be very effective in understanding the problems of Muslims by learning it from a real Muslim family rather than just a report in a book. Because of such material availability on topics covered in the class, I gained further interest in learning about the history of Islam as well as how we view this religion today.

His knowledge of the subject is absolutely tremendous which made me more confident in his ability to teach me well. Although the history of Islam as well as the religion itself is complicated, Mr. Pohl had the ability to clarify many things I was confused about. While he definitely knows the subject well, Mr. Pohl is extremely intelligent which I appreciate. However, his vocabulary is extremely extensive and broad. One slight constructive criticism I would make is Mr. Pohl should keep in mind that his audience consists of undergraduate students who may not be familiar with some of his vocabulary.

Unfortunately there were a few times when I found myself a bit lost due to lack of

understanding. As his student, I would recommend Mr. Pohl to keep things simple and to the point.

Being a senior at Temple University has given me the privilege to meet many different professors with different teaching styles. I found Mr. Pohl to be one of the best instructors I have had so far. His interaction with the students was friendly and pleasant but when the class starts he would play a role of a compassionate, serious professor. I noticed his appreciation for the material in class and that stood out to me the most. He was often fascinated by discussions in class, and this passion has made me want learn more about certain things because I saw him as a role model.

I definitely gained further interest in the subject; I appreciate everything I learned in his class. I was very interested in this class and I must say I did not expect it to be a handful. I do however appreciate how much material we covered because it really gave me the sense of the history of Islam and the current image we have of Islam today.

My final grade in his class was an A-, and Mr.Pohl definitely deserves to be recognized as a positive influence in the outcome of my experience in his class. It has been a great privilege knowing Mr. Pohl and being in his class.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ulwa Pipin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.