

Student Testimonials for Laurie Lomask

1. Testimonial from LITR301 regarding guest lecture given in April, 2013. Student is a junior in Yale College majoring in English.

“Ms. Lomask's in-class presentation on the tradition of pilgrimage in Spain and in Spanish literature stands out as one of the most interesting fusions of text, history, and image I have seen. In a lecture ostensibly about the theme of pilgrimage, Ms. Lomask artfully explained the relationship between walking and meditative prayer. She then rooted this thematic discovery into concrete explications of historical and contemporary pilgrimages in Spain and their relevance to both literary and practical ends. She mentioned medieval and contemporary pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela and both the historical and fictive versions of pilgrimages to Berceo's Monasterio de San Millán. Perhaps the most memorable part of Ms. Lomask's presentation was her use of image; she showed medieval manuscript glosses as well as actual photos of the Camino de Santiago that she herself took a few years back. It was marvelous to see the different interpretations of the moral and material terrain of 'the pilgrimage.'”

2. Extended evaluation written by student of two semesters, in SPAN130 and 140. Student is a freshman in Yale College, majoring in history.

To whom it may concern,

Without hesitation, I can say that Laurie Lomask is an extraordinary educator, communicator, and mentor. As a Yale University freshman, I was in her Spanish class each semester, an incredibly positive experience that I'm grateful to have enjoyed. Teaching with thoughtfulness and compassion, Laurie invested in every student, and created a safe and comfortable environment for students to engage the material on deep and sophisticated levels. She always seemed to put a considerable amount of time in planning creative lessons and being accessible to students outside of class. I truly cherish the experiences I had in her classes, and do not doubt that she will display the same energy and passion in future classrooms.

Prior to my freshman year, I had taken Spanish courses in high school. My experience with Spanish in Laurie's classes was far and way much more enjoyable and worthwhile. My speaking abilities developed significantly as a result of Laurie's commitment to using only Spanish in the classroom. While I am not currently taking a Spanish class, I am hoping to continue my language study at Yale and through study abroad programs. Through Laurie's unique and engaging activities and discussions, I now am committed to bettering my Spanish abilities, and I owe it to Laurie for inspiring me in this capacity.

Laurie made it a point to get her students to utilize Spanish in environments outside of the classroom. She took our class to the Yale University Art Gallery one day in the fall, where we went on a tour of the exhibition given in Spanish. Likewise, in the spring, our class went to a Yale greenhouse, where we learned about the plants in Spanish. Laurie managed to connect what we were doing outside the classroom with what we were doing in it, as we then made presentations and had discussions about what we had come across on those field trips. As demonstrated, Laurie's classes always felt connected and unified from one to another.

To conclude, Laurie Lomask has been incredibly influential in shaping my academic future, and I know she will continue to inspire students and classrooms wherever she goes in the future.

3. Email received from student of two semesters, in SPAN130 and 140. Student is a sophomore in Yale College, majoring in finance.

"I am actually very disappointed as today was my last day of class with you. However, I want to let you know that you genuinely have been such a joy to have as a professor and made coming to class every day something that I enjoyed rather than something that I dreaded. I cannot speak enough good words about your ability as a teacher, and I am confident that you have a great career ahead of you! Thank you so much Laurie!"

4. Email received from student after taking SPAN 140. Student is a freshman in Yale College, undeclared major.

"Quiero agradecerle por toda su ayuda este semestre. Ha sido realmente mi profesora favorita en Yale. Yo no puedo agradecerle bastante por su paciencia y dedicación. ¡Mucha suerte con todo en el futuro!"