

To the reappointment file of Professor Susana Loza  
09/26/2014

To the school of HACU:

My experiences with Professor Loza have been almost entirely in the classroom, and those of science student wandering into unfamiliar territory. In my second semester at Hampshire, as a first year developing a social conscience, I took her Sample! Remix! Mash! class. A year later, I enrolled in The Politics of Popular Culture.

Both classes played an enormous role in my development as a critical and analytical thinker, as a writer able to develop independent work, and as an individual engaged in activism both on and off campus. Professor Loza's own incredible work ethic pairs with a dedication to students and to her field; she expects, demands, and believes that her students will rise to the same standards. That belief in our abilities to read the intricate papers that make up cultural studies, and to produce serious and meaningful work of our own, pushed me to delve deeply into my topic and stretch my mental capacities. She is never unprepared for class; she considers all the possibilities for a class discussion to take and comes equipped with media files to demonstrate each one and provide real examples for each topic.

I've also had the somewhat unique and excellent experience of working with Professor Loza while not being a media studies concentrator; I often felt in both my NS classes and HACU classes to be the odd one out. Professor Loza, however, effectively bridged that gap, working with me to connect the analytical and critical methods in her classes to my other academic work in the sciences. I wrote two major papers for her: one on scientific publishing, and one on public perceptions of science as mediated by social media. She was willing to meet on a regular basis and help me through difficult and complex questions; her feedback on papers and written work was simultaneously encouraging, thought-provoking, and offered many

In the process, she helped me refine my writing and research about media and science alike. My experiences and lessons from her classes have proved useful and meaningful innumerable times since, and are a foundational part of my current Division III project in feminist neuroscience.

Professor Loza has been crucial in challenging and developing both my own and other student's academic and personal efforts; she contributes to the legacy of activism on campus and consistently ties academic theory to hard reality. It is largely due to the classes she's taught and her efforts to work with me that I feel competent and able to engage with political and social activism on campus and in the world. Her importance in mine and other students growth and development makes her a crucial part of the school, and the classes and support she provides seem irreplaceable. I would like nothing more than to see her reappointed and continuing to help Hampshire students grow and blossom into critical thinkers and writers.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Leeper