

September 30, 2018

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with my pleasure to submit a Letter of Recommendation for my former Professor at Columbia University—Mr. Ignacio Ojea Quintana. I am currently a rising junior majoring with a joint Economics and Political Science degree. At Columbia College, students are required and participate in a Core Curriculum which is a set of common courses required of all undergraduates and is known as the cornerstone of the Columbia College's education. As part of the curriculum, sophomores take Contemporary Western Civilization (referred to as "CC") for two full semesters and the course introduces students to political philosophy and metaphysics while evaluating political, social, moral, and religious issues. I had the satisfaction having Professor Ojea Quintana both semesters.

Every class session, Professor Ojea Quintana came well prepared while being eager, excited and happy to present the material to his class. He thoroughly understood the course material at a level well beyond his students, and he communicated it in a way that was interesting and open to interpretation. Professor Ojea Quintana never dogmatically preached ideas or viewed certain opinions with favoritism, and instead, he welcomed all views and demanded mutual respect, creating an atmosphere of acceptance, solidarity, and compassion.

For instance, when Professor Ojea Quintana presented *Souls of Black Folk*, tensions in our class grew. Students had different opinions about the current black condition in the United States, and animosity among some of my classmates grew based on conflicting opinions about the relevance of W.E.B. Du Bois today. Professor Ojea Quintana diffused the situation by reminding his students that respect is important, and without different opinions about a given issue, we would never be able to truly understand why we have these certain views and whether or not our arguments had been flawed. He, then, without presenting his own opinion, provided arguments for and against both of the prevailing opinions in the class, relating the discussion back to the text and how Du Bois would respond to both sides.

I have no reservations giving Professor Ojea Quintana my highest recommendation. I think he is a very special individual who gives his very best effort to be kind, knowledgeable, open, and respectful. If his performance in my CC class is a good indication of how he would perform as an Associate Professor at Columbia College, I am confident that he will be an invaluable addition to your faculty who will be liked by his students and professors alike. If I can be of any further assistance or provide you with any further information on Professor Ojea Quintana, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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