

5/14/2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I began my journey to learn Spanish in elementary school, but it was not a subject that I considered pursuing further until I took Spanish L4 at Yale. Spanish L4 was one of the most demanding courses I took in my second semester at Yale. It was in Spanish L4 when I started to see my Spanish skills grow and be put to use. Part of the reason that I grew so much in Spanish L4 was because the course was very demanding, requiring excellence in grammar, advanced writing skills, and expanding conversational skills. But an even bigger (actually the primary) reason I learned so much was because of my professor for Spanish L4, Profesora Tanya Romero-Gonzalez.

At first, as in any class, I hesitated to approach my professor when I found that I was having difficulty in learning the class material. I found the first mid-term very difficult, but Profesora Tanya offered to help me outside of the class. I met with her during and outside of her office hours, after and before class. Whenever I had questions on grammar, she made time in her schedule to meet with me, at my convenience. More than that, she came to our meetings prepared, which was very surprising to me! Never before had I seen a professor or teacher put in so much effort to help me learn the material.

She made practice worksheets for me to practice the difficult Spanish grammar. Profesora Tanya also gave me prompts for essays so that I could practice writing in Spanish. After I completed the worksheets and the essays, we reviewed them together. She pointed out the mistakes that I made and explained why they

were incorrect. This guaranteed that next time, I would remember the Spanish grammar rule and avoid the mistake. As the semester progressed, I made fewer mistakes and my scores on quizzes, exams, and in-class compositions went up.

Tanya's teaching style in the classroom was superb as well. From my conversations with other L4 students who did not have Profesora Tanya as their professor, I could see that students in our class were better prepared and supported to tackle course assignments. Tanya made extremely helpful powerpoints on each Spanish tense, and presented examples in class (especially tricky exceptions to the rules) that helped me and others to do well on the tests and assignments. I even heard from others that their class averages were lower than my class's average, and that was because of Profesora Tanya.

In Spanish L4, there were many movies, short clips, and stories. Usually, many students do not like to speak up about what they think about the literature or movies. However, Tanya made it interesting for us, and I always enjoyed participating in class discussions. Moreover, it was extremely easy and helpful that Tanya replied to us so quickly by email if we ever had any questions about our class or the work.

During the semester, I felt a sense of satisfaction from my work and was encouraged to do even better all because Profesora Tanya put in so much effort to see me (as well as my other classmates) do well. This encouragement and motivation and everything I learned this semester prompted me to consider pursuing a Spanish major while I complete the pre-med requirements. After the semester was over, I mentioned my plans for my major to Profesora Tanya, and even though the class was over, she still

offered to practice Spanish with me anytime I want in the coming semesters as I continue to take Spanish courses! At a place like Yale, where competition can take over one's appreciation or love for a subject, this never happened in Spanish L4 thanks to Tanya. With her support, I moved closer to mastering the Spanish language which allowed me to focus on more than just grammar - like the culture of Latin and South America and Spain. Profesora Tanya is the best professor I have ever had, and I hope to have more professors like her, who love what they teach and want to see their students succeed, as I continue my education.

Sincerely,

x Zobia Chunara

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