

## Scarlett Rebman Letter of Peer Support

It is my pleasure to offer my reflections on Scarlett's qualities as an instructor. I have known Scarlett as a colleague since 2013, when we both entered the PhD program at Syracuse. My first impression was that she was willing to jump right into any discussion. I remember distinctly that when we were required to share a review and lead class for a week in our historiography class, she offered to go first. She was the first person in our cohort to submit her work for public critique, and I was glad that she volunteered to do it. This was not a stand-alone incident, and I have noticed that she regularly asks probing questions at department workshops and seminars.

This boldness serves her well as an instructor. In the fall of 2015, both of us were scheduled to give lectures in the Ancient World survey course when the professor was at a conference. Though she is a 20<sup>th</sup> century Americanist, she took on the task of lecturing on a particularly tangled part of ancient Greek history: the era between the end of the Peloponnesian Wars and the rise of Macedonia. There was very little to work with, at least in terms of a survey lecture. Since the era was so chaotic, it was hard to offer concrete generalizations. There were no dominant or interesting people to discuss and the sources were bland. In sum, it was a period a specialist could love but not conducive to undergraduate discussion. Scarlett did a magnificent job with the lecture. She found some points of interest to highlight and was organized and clear regarding where the students should focus their attention. She also added slides to the existing PowerPoint lecture to better demonstrate how the era she discussed fit into the larger themes of the course, which I thought was particularly important given the chaos of the period. Throughout the lecture, she asked relevant questions, and listened attentively to the students' responses.

As both scholar and instructor, Scarlett is also exceptionally thoughtful about her work. Her handouts and presentations are polished and she presents with a clarity that suggests several rounds of revision behind the scenes. She clearly cares about the significance of her scholarly research, but as an instructor, I think this demonstrates a high regard for her students. In the lecture I observed, she was careful to explain clearly what the "blue terms" the professor had highlighted for review meant as she proceeded through the lecture. This was particularly notable because the professor himself often skimmed through the terms unless a student happened to raise a question about one of them. She also demonstrated her high regard for her students by preparing, unsolicited, a rubric handout for the required papers. I share an office with Scarlett and have observed this same quality in her personal interactions with students during office hours.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Scarlett as a colleague and I am happy to recommend her as an excellent instructor.

Sincerely,  
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