



HANYANG UNIVERSITY

9 December 2019

Dear Admissions Committee:

I am pleased to recommend Katrine Lyngsø Knudsen, an exchange student at Hanyang University. I have taught as a professor for four years in the USA and nine in South Korea. Ms. Knudsen registered for my Civil Society & Social Movements course (Fall 2019). The class draws on liberalism, social capital, and identity politics, among other theories, to analyse controversial issues (e.g., LGBT-Christian relations, white nationalism, post-1945 Korean comfort women for US soldiers).

My seminar course includes interrogatory teaching, class discussions, and extensive academic readings; it is similar to the classes that I taught at top-tier American liberal arts colleges, such as Oberlin College and University of Chicago. I encourage students to question prevailing narratives and to consider various arguments in their weekly essays.

Katrine majors in journalism and lacked prior background in political science. She more than made up for this by thoroughly reviewing and writing about the weekly readings, and actively participating in class and team meetings. I found Katrine to be open-minded, hardworking and ambitious. She absorbed my critiques constructively and improved her writing every week, to develop well-supported, theoretically grounded arguments. Katrine is also an engaged discussant and listener during team meetings, and wrote detailed, helpful reviews of team members' papers.

Katrine showed genuine interest in the civil societies of South Korea and East Asia, and seized every opportunity to learn more. She audited my Political Methods course to gain a better understanding of different research methods and to gain insights to a predominantly, Korean ethnic student class. Katrine sought to apply rigorous methods to conducting interviews and field research and to writing research notes. Katrine was the only student to attend all three, optional class fieldtrips to civil society organizations: a faith-based, humanitarian organization that operates in North Korea; American-style Thanksgiving lunch at an international church; and the Seoul Central Mosque (Islam). On fieldtrips, Katrine asked many questions and talked to members with a genuine interest in their lives. I was impressed by her professionalism and warm, friendly nature.

Katrine received an A+ grade for her excellent participation and academic record. She was the most hardworking and intellectually curious student in a class of 37 students, and among the very best in my 13 years of teaching. Ms. Knudsen has the attributes and skills to perform at the highest level in academics and journalism. Finally, Katrine is a uniformly pleasant and respectful person who can fit into diverse cultural and political environments. I strongly recommend Ms. Knudsen for any program or job.

Please contact me for further inquiries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yi'.

Joseph E. Yi

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