

March 27, 1980

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Professor Ferrater Mora
Department of Philosophy
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Dear Professor,

It's two years since I talked to you about transferring to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in order to complete my Economics major there. Looking back, it turns out that my reasons for going there were justified. Your support then in making this transition possible was invaluable.

I'm writing to you to ask you if you would be willing to write a new recommendation for my permanent file here at the University of Pennsylvania. Bureaucracy is such that it's hard to maintain my old file at Haverford now that I am at Penn. I have enclosed a copy of your recommendation and the form for the new letter. This new letter will be used for both employers and graduate schools in the future.

My plan next year is to go into banking. There are a few problems with this as I am not a U. S. citizen, but hopefully that will be straightened out. Eventually, I will go back to school for some graduate work.

Right now, at the end of college, I often think of the years that went by. The course I took with you and what I simply audited are among the best moments. Sometimes even going back to my notes I remember one more laugh or one more insightful remark. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Gerassimo

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TO WHOMĀ IT MAY CONCERN:

Mr. Contomichalos has all the necessary qualities to be a top student. He also puts these qualities to best use. Mr. Contomichalos takes the subject matter seriously; he is not deterred by difficulty or complexity of argument; he probes critically into assumptions. He may look to others a little shy; he looks to me simply respectful and polite. He is certainly reliable in performing tasks and assignments; he is exactly the opposite of a procrastinator.

The work of Mr. Contomichalos in my course on Kant's epistemology was excellent in all respects. It should be noted that this course, consisting of a close examination of the text of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, was conducted at a graduate level, with no attempt to disguise difficulties. Mr. Contomichalos showed a sure grasp of the substance of the problems involved, from an analysis of perceptions and concepts to an investigation of Kant's ideas on the foundations of mathematics.

It seems to me that Mr. Contomichalos will excel in studies demanding rigorous training and exact thinking.

I understand that Mr. Contomichalos is applying to other schools offering a wider range of choice in his field. While I understand the reasons for this decision, I am sorry that I may not have the opportunity to count Mr. Contomichalos again as one of my (best) students in the years to come.



J. Ferrater Mora
Professor of Philosophy
Fairbank Professor in the Humanities