March 24, 2013

I have been asked by Christopher Maker to write a letter of recommendation in support of his application for admission to Loma Linda University, Master of Social Work program. I am delighted to do so, but my recommendation has to be limited to Christopher’s academic performance as a student in one of my classes. He only took one course from me; it was Contemporary Social Theory. It is a core course in the Sociology Department. As a core course, it is required and one of the most difficult courses that students encounter in the sociology major and minor. The reason that I mention this is I believe that Christopher’s performance in this course can provide a valuable insight into his academic ability and potential for doing graduate work.

Christopher was one of the best students in his class which consisted of sociology majors and minors. The method of evaluation in the theory course is comprehensive and demanding. The combined grade average in the course is 2.3. There are two papers, three exams and two extra credit assignments. The exams consist of short answer and essay questions. Christopher did well on all three exams. Theory papers are more difficult for most students because they require students to think critically and think at a higher level of abstraction. Christopher again did well on each of his papers. Academically, I would rank him in the top twenty percent of students that I have taught at San Diego State. Because of the comprehensive nature of the evaluation process, I believe that doing as well as he did, B, in this course is an indication that he would be able to handle the academic challenges posed by an advanced degree program. I give him a positive recommendation based on his performance in my class. If I can be of further assistance, I can be reached at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or 619-594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul Tom Semm

Profess of Sociology

Department of Sociology

San Diego State University