November 4, 2013

To: Graduate Admissions

School of Social Work

California State University, Northridge

Chelsea Damiani has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application for admission to the Master of Social Work Program at CSU, Northridge; I am happy to do so. Chelsea was a student of mine in Contemporary Social Theory, Spring 2013. I teach two sections of the course each semester with fifty students in each section; Chelsea was one of the best students in the course.

The two theory courses, Contemporary and Classical, in the Sociology Department are required and are arguably the most difficult courses that students encounter in the Sociology major and minor. The reason that I mention this is I believe that Chelsea’s performance in the Contemporary Theory course can provide a valuable insight into her academic ability and potential to succeed in a graduate program. The evaluation process in the class consists of three exams and two papers. Chelsea received an A on each of the three exams. She did equally well on the papers. Her papers were well written and demonstrated both the ability to think critically and at a high level of abstraction. Academically, I would rank Chelsea in the top ten percent of students that I have taught at San Diego State, approximately five thousand. I believe her academic performance in this course is a good indication that Chelsea would be able to handle the academic challenges posed by any advanced degree program.

I know that professional programs look at other than academic factors and I can only comment to a small degree on those other factors. It was a diverse class and Chelsea interacted well with the other students. She participated fully in class discussions, asked intelligent questions, and was attentive and respectful to both me and the other students. And she had perfect attendance. I have only known her for a short time but my observation is that she is very mature for her age.

I am happy that Chelsea asked me to write a letter of recommendation and I highly recommend her without qualification. I believe that she would do quality work in the program and quality work as a professional. If I can be of further help, I can be reached at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office NH 204 phone 594-5906.

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