February 9, 2014

Graduate Committee

Department of Sociology, SDSU

Elena Horvitz has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application to the Master of Arts program in the Department of Sociology at San Diego State University. I am happy to do so; Elena was a student of mine in Social Theory and she was a volunteer last semester who helped me with the large social problems class..

Academically, Elena ranks in the top 2% of students that I have taught. She was one of the students on last spring’s list of Outstanding Graduating Seniors. And she was the student for whom I voted. I think that her performance in the theory class is a good indication of her academic ability and how she will do in the program. The evaluation process in Social Theory consists of three exams and two papers. Elena excelled on all the exams and papers. Her papers were well researched, thorough, and well written. She demonstrated an ability to deal with abstract concepts and to think critically.

She also impressed me with her conscientious approach to the class. She attended regularly and never came late, was always prepared, contributed to class discussion, and came to office hours.

In fact I was so impressed with Elena and confident that she would do a good job, I accepted her offer to assist me with the social problems class. She attended classes, helped maintain order in the large class, held office hours and met with students. She was organized, efficient, and dependable.

I have no doubt that Elena would do well in the Master of Arts program and would complete the program. I recommend her for the program without qualification. If I can be of further assistance, I can be reached at 594-5906 or [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu).

Sincerely,

Tom Semm

Lecturer, Department of Sociology

San Diego State University