July 24, 2014

Garrett Wong has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of his application to occupational therapy programs. Garret was a student in three of my courses in the sociology department at San Diego State: Introduction to Social Problems, Contemporary Social Theory, and an independent study in global social problems. I am delighted to write a letter of recommendation for him. He was one of those students who make teaching worthwhile. He excelled in all three courses, but I believe his performance in the two upper division courses, Contemporary Social Theory and the independent study are the best indicators of Garret’s academic ability and potential for doing post-graduate work

The evaluation process for Contemporary Theory is very comprehensive; it consists of three exams, two papers and a small group assignment. The exams are essays and require the students to compare and contrast the ideas of the theorists covered in the course. Garrett did well on all of the exams. The paper assignments demand a more critical understanding of the theories and theorists. His papers were well written and demonstrated an ability to think critically and reason complexly.

In other areas of the course, his performance was of the same high quality. He made significant contributions to the class through participation, asking intelligent and thoughtful questions that always reflected a knowledge of and engagement with the material. He was always respectful and interacted well with the other students in the classes.

I believe that Garrett is in the top 5% academically of students that I have taught at SDSU in upper division courses, many who have gone on to graduate programs and excelled in those programs. But that which was most impressive about Garrett in the social problems course and the theory course was his obvious engagement with the issues, and his desire and commitment to learn. Because of this, I allowed him to organize an independent study with several other students from the theory course. We met each week during his final semester. The students were all committed to learning, helped pick the reading material and were able to discuss it intelligently. I thought the independent study was a success. And from my point of view, Garrett was most responsible for its success.

I believe Garrett will excel in any graduate program and I give him my highest recommendation without qualification. If I can be of any further help, I can be reached at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or 1-619-594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul Tom Semm

Professor of Sociology

San Diego State University