March 10, 2014

I have been asked by Hidayet Avar to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application for the Fulbright Student Program. I am delighted to do so. Hidayet was a student of mine in the spring 2013 semester at San Diego State University. I have been a professor at San Diego State for twenty years and I teach in the sociology department. Hidayet took my Contemporary Social Theory course while she was a visiting student from Turkey on an International Exchange program.

The Contemporary Social Theory course is a required course and arguably the most difficult course in the undergraduate catalogue. The evaluation process consists of three exams and two papers. Hidayet received high scores on each of the three exams. And she did equally well on the papers. Theory papers are more difficult for most students because they require students to think critically and at a higher level of abstraction. And they are especially difficult for students for whom English is a second language. Hidayet’s papers were impressive. They were two of the best papers in the class. I believe that her performance in the course is a strong indication of Hidayet’s intelligence and her ability to handle the academic challenges posed by any program.

Along with her excellent performance academically, Hidayet was a model student. Her attendance was perfect. She participated fully in class discussions, asked intelligent questions and made relevant and insightful comments that reflected an engagement with the material. She was always attentive and respectful. It was a diverse class and she interacted well with all the other students.

I came to know her better than most students through her visits to my office. I mentioned that she demonstrated an engagement with the material. This was reinforced during the office visits. But also during these visits, it became clear that she was committed to learning and had a desire to understand the world in which she lives. I found her to be a kind, thoughtful, intelligent, articulate and caring person. Of the students that I have taught at San Diego State, I can think of no one that I would recommend more highly for the Fulbright program.

I am happy that Hidayet has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for her and I highly recommend her without qualification. 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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