February 5, 2013

To: Graduate Committee

Marco Vazquez has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of his application for admission to the Master of Arts in Sociology program at San Diego State University; I am delighted to do so. I have known Marco for almost a year. In the time that I have known him, I have been impressed with his academic ability, his commitment to learning, and his commitment to progressive social change. Marco was a student of mine in Contemporary Social Theory.

The evaluation process for Contemporary Social Theory is very comprehensive and I think provides a good indication of Marco’s intellectual ability and potential for doing well in a graduate program. The process consists of three exams, two papers and small group assignments. Marco received As on all three exams and on each paper. He did exceptionally well on the papers, which require the analysis and evaluation of contemporary theorists and theories. Each of Marco’s papers was excellent, thoughtfully argued, and I believe, demonstrated both high quality analytical and evaluative skills. His contributions in the small group assignment and class discussions were constructive and articulate. I believe that Marco rates in the top 2% academically of students that I have taught in upper division courses at San Diego State.

I got to know Marco better during office hours. He came frequently to discuss the theories and issues that were raised in the class. In these visits to the office, it was easy to see that he wanted to learn and was committed to learning. I also discovered that he participates in university and community organizations that focus on progressive social change. My belief is that he would excel in our program. I highly recommend him without qualification. If I can be of further assistance, I can be reached by email at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office phone 594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul Tom Semm

Lecturer

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