

## **SENIOR THESIS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Students must submit a completed senior thesis application to the Undergraduate Administrative Assistant in the Political Science Department by 4:30pm April 1<sup>st</sup>. The application must be supported by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the Political Science Department who agrees to serve as the student's advisor on the thesis. A completed application consists of the Thesis Cover Form (signed by your thesis advisor) and the Thesis Proposal (also signed by your thesis advisor). Students will be informed whether they are accepted into the thesis program by the end of the semester.

Your thesis proposal should describe your project in about 1500 words (5 pages) or less. You should provide your advisor a copy of the proposal at least two weeks before April 1<sup>st</sup> for his/her approval.

In your proposal, you should do the following:

1. Identify your research puzzle/problem/question;
2. Describe the importance of the puzzle/problem/question;
3. Relate briefly your work's contribution to the academic literature;
4. Briefly explain your argument;
5. Describe briefly your choice of method (e.g., case study, observational study, and experiment; conceptual analysis, textual interpretation, and normative argument).
6. Defend your ability to execute the thesis (e.g., data availability, methodological training, language expertise)

## SENIOR THESIS COVER FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### THESIS TITLE/TOPIC

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please attach your proposal to this document.)*

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### PS363: Quantitative Political Methodology (QPM)

Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have taken an approved alternative, please list that along with the Semester/Year you completed this course.)*

#### PS495: Research Design and Methods (RDM)

Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Second Methods Requirement

Number/Course Title \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Area of Concentration (two of three courses must be completed by end of junior year, and third course must be completed by the end of the first semester of your senior year)

Concentration in (select one of the following): American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political and Social Theory

Course 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Course 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester/Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (cumulative): \_\_\_\_\_

*(Students must have a minimum of 3.65 to receive Latin Honors from the College. Students who have lower GPA may write a thesis but will not graduate with Latin Honors.)*

### FACULTY APPROVAL

*In signing the senior thesis form, I have read the student's thesis proposal and hereby agree to serve as this student's advisor for their senior thesis. However, if the student does not perform according to expectations, I reserve the right to resign as their advisor.*

Faculty Advisor (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_