

**Senior Thesis**  
**PS 485 Political Science/Public Administration-Spring 2006**  
**Arranged-1 Credit**

**Catalog Description:** This course requires completion of a directed research paper. Required course for graduation senior political science/public administration majors. Prerequisites: Senior standing. Arranged.

**Rationale:** the aim of this exercise is to enable candidates for graduation in political science/public administration an opportunity to demonstrate the skills acquired and developed from various courses of study they have completed; and to integrate this knowledge from the totality of their program.

**Goals:**

The Senior Thesis is designed to:

1. Provide an opportunity for the student to demonstrate the skills necessary to read and comprehend contemporary political analyses and to develop her/his critical and analytical powers.
2. Create an opportunity for the student to show familiarity with the different assumptions, methods and analytical procedures used by political scientists, public administrators and cognate disciplines.
3. Inculcate a liberal arts perspective: a perspective which explicates the interdisciplinary nature of the departmental programs through an integrative approach of both the analytical and normative character of the topic under consideration.

**Competencies and Performance Indicators:**

Competency One: Demonstrate skill in general exposition writing. (Phase of Manual).

- a. Provide a precise definition of the thesis's subject or problem.
- b. Identify the context of the subject e.g. historical, institutional, etc.
- c. Provide a description of the subject under study.
- d. Present an evaluation of the topic being examined by identifying the normative components of the study.

Competency Two: The student will demonstrate sequential learning skills.

- a. Continually utilize and build upon concepts, information and skills learned earlier in related courses and other fields.

Competency Three: The student will complete the senior thesis as required by the thesis advisor and the designated readers of the thesis and the pertinent suggestions for revision as required.

**Text:** No formal text is assigned for the senior thesis. The student may be required to read pertinent materials assigned in preparation for the assignment and responsibilities attendant to the writing of the thesis.

**Course Requirements:**

1. The student will be required to purchase the following:

Scott, Gregory and Stephen Garrison. 2002. The Political Science Student Writers Manual. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. (paper cover);

Lipson, Charles. 2004. Doing Honest Work in College: How to Prepare Citations, Avoid Plagiarism, and Achieve Real Academic Success. Chicago, Ill: University of Chicago Press. (paper cover)

2. A senior political science/public administration major in good standing.
3. The student will be required to prepare a topic outline.
4. Student will be required to consult with thesis advisor as needed.
5. Student must be able to complete the thesis according to deadlines.

**Grading:**

A final evaluation of the students thesis based on the Senior Thesis Evaluation Form (attached) provided to the readers of the thesis will be relayed to the student upon completion of readers' evaluation.

## Bibliography

- Scott, Gregory and Stephen Garrison. 2002. The Political Science Student Writers Manual. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. (paper cover);
- Lipson, Charles. 2004. Doing Honest Work in College: How to Prepare Citations, Avoid Plagiarism, and Achieve Real Academic Success. Chicago, Ill: University of Chicago Press. (paper cover)
- Kalvelage, Carl, Morley Segal and Peter J. Anderson. 1992. Research Guide for Undergraduates in Political Science. Morristown, NJ: General Learning Press.
- Shively, W. Phillips. 2002. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. The Craft of Political Research: A Primer. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Martin, Fenton and Robert Goehlert. 1997. Getting Published in Political Science Journals. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington DC: American Political Science Association.
- Graduate Faculty and Programs in Political Science 2002-2006 2005. 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington DC: 20036. American Political Science Association.
- King, Gary. 1990. Unifying Political Methodology. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Manly, Bryan F.J. 1992. The Design and Analysis of Research Studies. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Tufte, Edward R. 1974. Data Analysis for Politics and Policy. Englewood Cliffs: NJ: Prentice Hall Inc.