

## **Political Science Senior Thesis (POLS 4990)**

A senior thesis in political science involves writing an article-length research paper about a topic of interest to the student under the supervision of a faculty member with expertise in the area. The prerequisites for POLS 4990 are a minimum grade of B in POLS 2220 AND a minimum overall GPA of 3.0. To enroll in a senior thesis, you should have a research question in mind and find a full-time faculty member in the department who is willing to supervise your project. (For a list of full-time faculty members, see <http://politicalscience.uncc.edu/people/full-time-faculty>.) Senior theses often grow out of previous coursework with that instructor. Many faculty members will only agree to supervise a thesis if you have taken one or more of their upper-level courses.

Because POLS 4990 fulfills both writing intensive (W) and oral communication (O) requirements, you must give an oral presentation about your research findings. You should work with the supervising instructor to schedule a presentation in an existing class or for faculty and students in the political science department. In addition, because this is a senior capstone course, you are required to take the POLS comprehensive test early in the semester for which you enroll in the senior thesis. The associate chair will contact you to schedule this test.

Steps to enroll in POLS 4990 Senior Thesis (assuming you meet the prerequisites):

1. Identify your broad research question.
2. Find a full-time faculty member in the department who has expertise in this area and discuss your project with that person.
3. If the faculty member agrees to supervise your project, complete the Request for Approval of Senior Thesis form (page 2) and get supervising instructor's signature.
4. Submit form to the associate chair.
5. When you receive an email from the associate chair prompting you to do so, register for POLS 4990 online.

**Department of Political Science  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SENIOR THESIS (POLS 4990)**

I request permission to enroll for a senior thesis in Political Science. I understand it is my responsibility to work with the supervising instructor to establish deadlines and complete the project in a timely manner. I will receive a *letter grade* for the senior thesis. I also understand that I must give an oral presentation and complete the POLS comprehensive test during the semester in which I enroll for the senior thesis. I understand that after submitting this form, the department will issue a permit that allows me to register for this class. It is then my responsibility to register for the class.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Term Enrolled \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Scheduled Meeting Time(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in the University Honors Program?  If yes, will this be taken as an Honors Thesis?

Expected Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

Grading/Evaluation Criteria:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervising Instructor Signature (Full-time POLS faculty only) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chair/Associate Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Honors Committee Members (to sign below only if taken as Honors Thesis):

\_\_\_\_\_