

*Guidelines for the Political Science Senior Honors Thesis Defense*

- 1) The thesis defense will last for one hour. Panelists will include the thesis director, second reader and third reader.
- 2) The thesis student will be asked to deliver a 15-20 minute presentation of his or her thesis work. This presentation should include:
  - a) A description of the thesis or research question
  - b) A discussion of the research methodology or approach employed
  - c) A presentation of findings
  - d) A discussion of the significance of the findings
- 3) The remainder of the hour (i.e., 40-45 minutes) will be devoted to questions from the panelists.
- 4) The panelists will evaluate the following properties of the student's performance during the defense:
  - a) Knowledge of the topic
  - b) Ability to articulate his or her argument and to defend it in response to questions
  - c) Ability to explain the significance of his or her research or analysis
- 5) The members of the panel will convene at the conclusion of the thesis defense to decide on the student's final grade determined by the panel's evaluation of the following:
  - a) The persuasiveness of the written argument
  - b) The quality of the writing
  - c) The performance during the thesis defense
- 6) The student will meet with the panelists to receive his or her final grade.