

Political Science
Senior Thesis Workshop Guidelines

(1) All senior thesis students will present a short (5-10 minute) "Progress Report" to the political science faculty during "The Senior Thesis Workshop" on the third Friday in November.

(2) While the Department's strong preference is that students present on a single day to the entire political science faculty and to any of their peers who wish to attend this public event, the faculty reserve the right to choose another format (e.g., spreading the progress reports over multiple days, asking thesis students to deliver their progress reports to faculty in a particular subfield or to faculty knowledgeable about a particular methodological or theoretical approach or literature, etc.) in response to an unusual number of thesis students or faculty workload considerations.

(3) Students' progress reports will differ depending on the subfield in which the particular student is working and the question the student is addressing. All presentations, however, should include the following:

a) The question or puzzle the student is addressing

b) The scholarly discourse with which the student is engaging (e.g., the literature on state capacity, the literature on media effects, the commentaries on Montesquieu's *The Persian Letters*, the literature on democratization, etc.)

c) The primary sources the student will use to address his or her question (e.g., texts, government documents, survey data, census data, geospatial data, semi-structured interviews, archival materials, etc.)

d) The analytical approach or the research tools, design, or framework the student will use to address his or her question (e.g., close textual analysis, comparative case studies, experimental or quasi-experimental design, historical institutional analysis, statistical analysis, spatial analysis, mixed methods, etc.).

(4) At the conclusion of each student's presentation, the second reader of the student's thesis will have the option to offer the first question or comment or set of questions or comments. When the second reader has concluded his or her questioning and advising of the student, other faculty will have the opportunity to pose questions or offer comments or suggestions to the student. Faculty may

pose questions and offer comments and suggestions for a maximum of 15 minutes. Faculty may also submit written comments and suggestions to the student's thesis director, provided that the faculty member delivers these comments and suggestions within one week following The Senior Thesis Workshop.

(5) The thesis director will meet with the student soon after The Senior Thesis Workshop to discuss both which suggestions the student should incorporate into his or her work and how to incorporate these suggestions.