**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POL/IRE 194HA - HONORS THESIS PETITION**

**STAGE 1 APPLICATION**

**DUE: FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024 @ 12:00 PM**

* Save your completed application as “[Last Name], [First Name] – 194 Stage 1 Application 2024-25”
* Email (subject heading the same as the name of your saved document) that application as an attachment to [2024\_25.3zayctaw4vbi5m7a@u.box.com](mailto:2024_25.3zayctaw4vbi5m7a@u.box.com). **Attach only a SINGLE file with all application materials in that file in the order listed below.** Please note that any text included in the body of the email will not be submitted.

**HONORS THESIS SEMINAR BASICS:**

* The Honors Thesis Seminar is an intense two-quarter course, requiring a large amount of work on a single research project.
* Only students prepared to put in significant amounts of intense work and to meet the regular class deadlines should consider applying.
* For students who are interested in pursuing research but are not yet sure that they would like to take such an intense approach, there are a number of other research avenues that they can pursue. See the webpage for the Honors Thesis Seminar for specifics.

**SPECIFIC APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

Instructions: Fill out the requested information from below. Note that the most important questions (regarding your project proposal) in this application are on the final page.

1. Name:
2. Student ID:
3. UCD E-mail:
4. Expected Graduation Date:
5. Number of Completed Units at UC Davis:
6. Major(s):
7. GPA in major classes at UC Davis:
   * Note that for questions 7 & 11, by “major classes” we mean classes that you took in fulfillment of requirements in your major at UC Davis. (E.g., if you took a STA class at UCD to fulfill a requirement in the major, you should include that when you list your major courses and when you calculate your GPA.)
8. Overall GPA at UC Davis:
9. Have you taken POL 051 or the equivalent? Please list quarter/year/instructor/grade.
10. Have you taken POL 114? Please list quarter/year/instructor/grade.
11. List for each major course you have taken at UC Davis (1 course per row): quarter you took the course (e.g., “Fall 2019”), each major class you have taken (course number & actual name), name of course instructor, and your grade.
12. Please provide unofficial UC Davis transcript with your completed application.
13. Optional: Feel free to offer a few sentences of explanation for any part of your record at UC Davis (for example, if there was a period in which your grades were lower than usual).
14. List any professors in your major with whom you have had academic interactions besides just sitting in class and occasionally asking questions in class. Please explain those interactions (e.g., “I have gone to Office Hours a number of times to see Professor X and we have talked about my interest in the issue of Y”).
15. Before your application is complete, consult with at least one faculty member (other than the Honors Thesis Seminar course instructor) in your major who has expertise and/or interest in the research area of your project. Specifically, you should get the following assistance from this faculty member (although you may get help from more than one faculty member) and you should share the following highlighted instructions with the faculty member(s) so that they know what you are trying to do:
    * You should get feedback from this faculty member on your proposed project, especially on your written proposal. Ideally, you will work with the faculty member on multiple drafts of the proposal so that you have a stronger application. Reminder: The review committee will prioritize students who have well-developed project proposals.
    * **To complete your application, you must have at least one faculty member provide you an email that you will include in your application.** The email should state (at a minimum): “This proposal on [whatever your topic is] offers a plausible first cut at an Honors Thesis project. If the student is selected for Stage 2 of the Honors Thesis Seminar selection process, I would be willing to offer the student additional suggestions on how to hone the proposal further.”
    * **Please do not feel shy about approaching faculty. Supporting undergraduate student research is a part of being a faculty member at UC Davis.** If you have difficulty identifying or contacting a faculty member who has expertise in your chosen topic area, please contact your major advisor for help.If there is no available faculty member that works in that area, you may want to consider switching to a topic on which faculty have expertise/interest.
    * In your application, you should list any faculty members that you met with in preparing your application.
16. List, in order of preference, five faculty members in your major that you would like to have as your faculty advisor for your thesis. (1 means top choice, 5 means fifth choice.) No one except for the application review committee will see your rankings. (Note that the course instructor cannot serve as faculty advisor.)
    * **Ideally, the faculty listed in #15 or your top choice in #16 will be able to serve as your advisor on the thesis, but (a) this is not guaranteed and (b) faculty advisors will not be finalized until Stage 2 of the application process.**
    * This can include but does not need to be limited to faculty members you have interacted with (per #15) or taken courses with; you are welcome to include faculty you have not interacted with, but are within your field of research interest. See the website for the Department of Political Science for faculty’s research fields and focuses.

**RESEARCH PLAN**

Please respond in detail to the questions below to describe your research plan (in no more than 3-5 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins). We understand that your project and plan will likely evolve as you work on the thesis and that this application merely serves as a starting point for your project.

**For students who plan to write a thesis focused on political theory, please skip the questions on this page and instead answer those listed on p. 4.**

1. What is your research question? What question do you plan to address in your project?

(Be sure to expand on your topic thoroughly, rather than simply noting it.)

1. Why is this question important?
2. List (with full citations) at least three scholarly works (journal articles, book chapters, or books) that are important to addressing your research question. (<https://scholar.google.com/> is an excellent resource for finding sources.)
3. If you plan to conduct quantitative analysis, what statistical software programs are you familiar with? Do you know what data you plan to use and how to acquire it?
4. If you do not plan to conduct quantitative analysis, what sort of data do you plan to use? That is, be specific about what kind of information you plan to use and how you will acquire that information.
5. At this time, what do you anticipate focusing on as your central independent and dependent variables?
6. What are your hypotheses? What relationship do you expect to find between your independent and dependent variables? (E.g., “the more X occurs, the more I expect Y to also occur.”)

**RESEARCH PLAN FOR STUDENTS PLANNING TO WRITE A POLITICAL THEORY THESIS**

Please respond in detail to the questions below to describe your research plan (in no more than 3-5 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins). We understand that your project and plan will likely evolve as you work on the thesis and that this application merely serves as a starting point for your project.

1. Have you taken the POL 118 series? Please list quarter/year/instructor and grade(s) received.
2. What is your research question? That is, what question do you plan to address in your project? (Be sure to expand on your topic thoroughly, rather than simply noting it.)
3. Please clearly articulate the point of your theoretical investigation (e.g., conceptual clarification, identifying current political languages and their inner tensions, the history of a particular idea, normative proposals about policy, etc.) and the political stakes of your investigation.
4. At this time, what central argument do you anticipate making in the thesis?
5. What materials do you plan to focus on?
   1. Who are the primary theorists and what are the specific works you plan to focus on?
   2. What are the relevant secondary literatures you plan to refer to and/or build on?
   3. If your thesis focuses on a practical problem of politics (e.g., how the practical problem is framed in conceptual terms), please list the sources you plan to draw on to describe the political phenomenon. Examples here would be relevant policy documents, speeches, legal judgments, political manifestos.