

## Guidelines for the Gender Studies Senior Thesis (GSC 48001/48002)

The senior thesis is a 2-semester sequence of two 3-credit courses. In each semester, the students are registered in a 3-credit section of GSC 48001 (fall) /48002 (spring) for 6 credits total. Both semesters are graded, though there are no set meeting times. The faculty advisor for the thesis is listed as the instructor of record for each particular student's section and submits the grades.

Our program guidelines require a 30-50 page thesis (excluding notes and bibliography) to be submitted by the second Friday of April in the spring semester. It is our expectation that all students writing a senior thesis will submit their completed work to our thesis prize competition (the deadline for submissions is also the second Friday in April). The generous spread of the page length is designed to accommodate disciplinary differences. As a thesis, there should be a theoretical basis underpinning the work, and it should represent a piece of original scholarship on the student's part.

The Gender Studies thesis requires a second faculty member's input, but that role has developed differently than the traditional second reader; we require a research consultant. Each student selects (in consultation with his/her advisor) as their research consultant a faculty member whose expertise complements the advisor's and speaks to the student's project. The research consultant's responsibility is to approve the prospectus (detailed below) in the fall semester and provide any necessary feedback at that point. Because many projects will be interdisciplinary, we want to avoid disciplinary conflicts at the end stage of the paper. While it is not necessary to have the research consultant approve the final draft, students are encouraged to work with both their advisor and their research consultant throughout the research and writing process and the research consultant is encouraged to read the final paper. The prospectus must be approved by both faculty members by the Friday of finals week in the fall semester.

The prospectus includes a 4-7-page literature review, a working bibliography and a 1-2-page summary of the project's direction to date (including total number of pages drafted). Additionally, all students must complete IRB training (Curriculum Group: Human Research; Course Learner Group: Social & Behavioral Research; Stage: Stage 1 – Basic Course) if they have not already done so, submit their CITI certificate, and (if applicable) apply for IRB-approval for their study. Ideally, students will have already begun to implement their study by the end of the first semester. Both the advisor and the research consultant must approve the prospectus for the student to receive a passing grade for the fall. The goal is that the research consultant will fill any gaps in the bibliography so that the student produces the strongest paper possible.

Each student and advisor develops the meeting and reading schedule that the individual project requires. Students and advisors are encouraged to block out a tentative schedule for the thesis process by the end of September. A specific number/frequency of meetings of students and advisors is not required. Please consult with the Associate Director should any difficulties regarding the meeting schedule arise.

The Associate Director of the Gender Studies Program serves as the program liaison for the thesis process and will check in with both students and faculty advisors periodically. All involved parties (student, advisor, research consultant) should not hesitate to contact her/him with any questions/concerns. Please know that s/he is here as a resource for any of you at any stage of the process.

Approved by the Gender Studies Steering Committee, Spring 2014; emendations approved June 2016