

## HONORS IN GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Nature of the Program

This program is designed for students who wish to accept academic challenges that go well beyond those required for graduation. It is an opportunity for students—especially those preparing for graduate school—to hone their critical thinking skills, achieve a fuller appreciation of political life, and familiarize themselves with a body of scholarly literature. Since the challenge is significant, it is appropriate for those who undertake it to be honored. Recognition of honors will appear in the commencement booklet and on students' transcripts.

Students in the honors track are required to take 39 credits in Government, and must complete both Government 390 (Research Seminar) and Government 391 (Honors Seminar) with an A average. During the Research Seminar, students will design a thesis project, conduct research, and construct a comprehensive outline. During the Honors Seminar, students will write the thesis and present their results in a public defense before the Government faculty.

### Requirements for Admission

1. A college-wide grade point average of 3.5
2. A departmental grade point average of 3.5
3. Acceptance by the department through review of application form and the statement of intent to comply with program requirements.

### When to Apply

- The deadline for application will be each semester, one week before registration.
- Students will generally apply for admission to the honors program as sophomores or juniors.
- Students wishing to complete Government 390 and 391 during their junior year should apply during the spring of their sophomore year.
- Students wishing to complete Govt 390 during the spring of their junior year, and Govt 391 during the fall of their senior year, should apply during the fall of their junior year.
- Students wishing to complete Govt 390 and Govt 391 during their senior year should apply during the spring of their junior year.
- Students planning graduate study should consider completing Govt 390 and Govt 391 during their junior year, in order to have a polished writing sample available when applying to graduate schools.

### Requirements for Completion of the Program\*

1. A college-wide grade point average of 3.5
2. A departmental grade point average of 3.5
3. A grade of B or better in one course from each of the five areas (law, American government, international relations, political theory, comparative politics) at the 300-level or higher.
4. A grade of A in the research seminar (Government 390)
5. A grade of A in the honors seminar (Government 391)
6. 39 credit hours in Government

\* Exceptions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances, upon formal petition to the Honors Program Director.

### Removal from the Program

Students may be removed from the honors program for failing to meet its requirements or for academic dishonesty.

### The Thesis

The thesis is an extended research paper, generally 45-60 pages in length, that addresses an important political issue in depth. In close consultation with the honors program advisor, students will formulate a research question, advance hypotheses, delve into primary and secondary sources, and write a polished work of political science that makes an original contribution to the field.

The two seminars will be organized as follows:

1. A one-page thesis precis, containing a working title and a brief description of the project, will be due during the third week of fall semester.
2. An annotated bibliography of relevant sources will be due two weeks later.
3. By the eighth week, students will complete a thesis prospectus, in which they will lay out a specific puzzle or research question, advance hypotheses, discuss methodological issues, state expected conclusions, and assemble a revised bibliography.
4. During the remainder of the first semester, students will assemble a comprehensive, detailed outline of their argument.
5. The second semester will be devoted to writing the actual text of the thesis.

### Tentative Schedule

#### **Government 390**

- Week 3: One page thesis precis due.
- Week 5: Annotated bibliography due.
- Week 8: 4-6 page thesis prospectus due.
- Week 11: Preliminary outline due.
- Week 14: Final version of the outline due.

#### **Government 391**

- Week 3: At least 15 pages of the thesis must be completed.
- Week 6: At least 35 pages of the thesis must be completed.
- Week 9: Entire rough draft must be completed.
- Week 12: Entire final draft must be completed.
- Week 13: Public defense of thesis, in front of Government faculty and interested observers.

**HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM**  
**Department of Government and International Affairs**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

College-wide G.P.A.: \_\_\_\_\_

Department G.P.A.: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all Government Department courses you have completed or are currently enrolled in, along with the grades you have received:

Course:

Grade:

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