

Masters Thesis Guidelines

The Graduate Program in International Affairs (GPIA)

This document contains:

1. Overview of the Thesis Process
2. Thesis Format Guidelines
3. Citation Guidelines
4. Thesis Checklist
5. Cover Page Template and Sample

1. Overview of the Thesis Process:

The thesis is an independent project based on field work, institutional research, and/or theoretical research involving primary and secondary sources. Media-based theses are possible with Program approval. Theses must conform to academic standards. You are expected to follow the following guidelines in the preparation and submission of your thesis. Failure to follow these guidelines will delay your graduation.

Students usually decide in their second semester (or by the completion of 18 credits) whether they wish to write a thesis. This is known as choosing the “Thesis Option.” Talk with your advisor about whether the thesis is the right option for you. Students writing the thesis register for two courses: Thesis Workshop followed by Thesis Supervision. The steps for pursuing a thesis are as follows:

I. Workshop Semester

1. Thesis Workshop

Upon consultation with their advisors, students pursuing the ‘thesis option’ register for the *Thesis Workshop*, which focuses on designing the research project and writing a proposal. The Thesis Workshop is taken **the semester before completing the thesis**. Before starting the workshop students must draft a preliminary 2-page statement of their proposed thesis topic and bring this statement to the first workshop meeting. The goal of the workshop is the completion of a proposal that forms the basis of the thesis itself. The Workshop is a prerequisite for registering for Thesis Supervision.

2. Thesis Committee

Prior to or concomitant with taking the Thesis Workshop, students put together a *Thesis Committee*, which consists of a primary reader and a secondary reader. The primary reader is known as the *thesis supervisor* (not necessarily the same person as the academic advisor) and must be a full-time GPIA faculty member. The secondary reader can be an academic, researcher, or professional in a field related to the student’s work and may be external to the program. External readers must be approved by the thesis supervisor.

3. Thesis Registration

By the last week of the Thesis Workshop students must submit a *Thesis Registration Form*, available in the GPIA office and online at <http://gpia.info/forms>. This registration form must be

signed by the thesis supervisor and turned in to the GPIA Program Secretary by December 10th for students completing their thesis the following Spring semester and by May 10th for students completing their thesis the following Fall semester.

II. Supervision Semester

1. Thesis Supervision

In the semester following the Thesis Workshop, students register for *Thesis Supervision* usually under the name of their thesis supervisor. Thesis Supervision carries 3 credits. Students must have a thesis proposal and a thesis supervisor prior to registering for Thesis Supervision. At the *beginning* of the semester, students submit their finished thesis proposal to their committee and work out a plan for completing the thesis. Theses are researched and written independently during the semester, though with the advice and guidance of the thesis supervisor.

2. Thesis Submission to the Committee

In accordance with the individual thesis plan, students submit a final draft of the thesis to their committee; a revised draft follows, integrating the committee's comments. The committee should have *at least two weeks* to review the revised draft before the Program's final thesis deadline. Either reader may ask the student to continue to revise and resubmit part or all of the work. If approved, the completed manuscript is submitted to the Program.

3. Thesis Deposit with the Program

In order to graduate, TWO clean, final copies of the *approved* thesis (also known as the *deposit copies*), bearing the signatures of the committee members on the cover page (see Thesis Format Guidelines, below) must be deposited with the GPIA Secretary, who will verify compliance with format guidelines. One copy of the thesis will be available for reading and one copy will be filed for reference. You must also submit an electronic, pdf version to thesis@gpia.info. In addition, the supervisor *must* submit a passing grade (P) for the Thesis Supervision. The thesis does not receive a letter grade.

Finished, signed, and approved thesis manuscripts on acid-free paper, conforming to all of the usual expectations of library-deposited thesis documents, are due in the GPIA Office by December 15 for January degree conferral, and May 7 for May degree conferral. Theses deposited after that date will delay the student's graduation by one semester.

2. GPIA Thesis Format Guidelines

Length of thesis: 45-55 pages of text (not including title page, abstract, table of contents, bibliography, notes, or appendices).

Order of Thesis: The thesis should conform to this order:

1. **Title Page** (do not count or number this page)
Type the title of the thesis in all Capital letters centered 2” from the top of the page.
Double space and type “by”.
Double space and type the students” name, as the author, in full as it will appear in the diploma.
Type “A THESIS” approximately 2.5” below the name.
Double space then type (single spaced):
Submitted to The New School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS in International Affairs
Double space then type: The Graduate Program in International Affairs.
Double space and type the month and year in which the thesis is submitted.
Signature lines for first and second readers and date approved at bottom of page.
2. **Abstract** 200 words maximum (do not count or number this page)
3. **Table of contents**
4. **List of Tables** (if any)
5. **List of Figures** (if any)
6. **Glossary or list of abbreviations/symbols etc.**
7. **Text of thesis** (divided into chapters or major sections. Each chapter or major section must begin on a new page, and the chapter titles in the text and in the table of contents must match.) Usually the thesis will have sections approximating the following. Please confer with your supervisor to determine what will work best in your particular case:

Typical thesis outline:

- a. **Introduction**
- b. **Literature review closely related to statement of problem**
- c. **Formal statement of hypothesis**
- d. **Description of research methods**
- e. **Findings and analysis**
- f. **Conclusion**
- g. **Appendices** (if any)
- h. **Bibliography**

Format specifications

- **Margins** must be 1 inch on the right, top and bottom and 1.5 inches on the left.
- **Page numbers** beginning on table of contents page starting with Arabic numeral 1.
- **Font:** Times New Roman.
- **Font size:** The main text must be 12 point type. Footnotes, figures or tables must be 10 point.
- **Spacing:** The main text must be double spaced. Indented quotes must be single spaced. Footnotes, figures or tables should be single spaced.

- **Numbers and captions:** Footnotes or Endnotes must be numbered seriatim. Figures, illustrations or tables must be numbered and captioned.
- **Paper:** The deposit copies of the thesis **must** be submitted with signatures, to the GPIA office on white, acid-free, 20% cotton paper and be submitted along with a completed Thesis Checklist. One electronic pdf version of the paper must be submitted to thesis@gpia.info.

3. GPIA Citation Guidelines

Check with your thesis supervisor for their preferred citation style. Regardless of specific style, citations must follow academically accepted norms. The most common style used in the social sciences is the Chicago Style's Author-Date System, described below. You may also wish to consult Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed., 2007.

Chicago Manual of Style – Author-Date System

This guide is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style 16th ed.* (University of Chicago Press, 2010); The Chicago Manual of Style Online, <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>, and The Ohio State University's Chicago Style Citation Guide, <http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagofd.php>.

Reference list items are listed alphabetically at the end of the research paper.

In-Text citations are noted in the body of the paper.

To cite books:

One author

Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin.
(Pollan 2006, 99–100)

Two or more authors

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. 2007. *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945*. New York: Knopf.
(Ward and Burns 2007, 52)

Four or more authors

Reference list:

Laumann, Edward O., John H. Gagnon, Robert T. Michael, and Stuart Michaels. 1994. *The social organization of sexuality: Sexual practices in the United States*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

In-Text:

(Laumann et al. 1994, 262)

Corporate or organization author

Reference list:

Ohio State University. Natural Resources Institute. 1959. *A directory of Ohio facilities and services for natural resource conservation*. Columbus: Natural Resources Institute.

In-Text:

(Ohio State 1959)

To cite articles:

Journal (one author)

Reference list:

Weinstein, Joshua I. 2009. "The Market in Plato's *Republic*." *Classical Philology* 104:439–58.

In-Text:

(Weinstein 2009, 440)

Journal (two authors)

Reference list:

Bolzan, J.F. and K.C. Jezek. 2000. Accumulation rate changes in central Greenland from passive microwave data. *Popular Geography* 27(4): 277-319.

In-Text:

(Bolzan and Jezek 2000, 208) or (Bolzan and Jezek 2000)

Newspaper

Reference list:

Newspaper and magazine articles may be cited in running text, and they are commonly omitted from a reference list. The following examples show the more formal versions of the citations. If you consulted the article online, include a URL; include an access date only if your publisher or discipline requires one. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.

Mendelsohn, Daniel. 2010. "But Enough about Me." *New Yorker*, January 25.

Stolberg, Sheryl Gay, and Robert Pear. 2010. "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote." *New York Times*, February 27. Accessed February 28, 2010.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>.

In-Text:

"As Sheryl Stolberg and Robert Pear noted in a *New York Times* article on February 27, 2010, ..."

To cite electronic sources:

Electronic Journal Article

Reference List:

Thomas, Trevor M. 1956. "Wales: Land of Mines and Quarries." *Geographical Review* 46, no.1: (January), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/211962>.

In-Text:

(Thomas 1956)

Electronic Book

Reference List:

Rollin, Bernard E. 1998. *The Unheeded Cry: Animal Consciousness, Animal Pain, and Science*. Ames, IA: The Iowa State University Press. <http://www.netlibrary.com>.

In-Text:

(Rollin 1998)

Web Site

Reference List:

Hermans-Killam, Linda. 2010. "Infrared Astronomy." California Institute of Technology. Accessed Sept 21. http://coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/cosmic_classroom/ir_tutorial/.

In-Text:

(Hermans-Killam)

Sample reference list:

Bolzan, J.F. and K.C. Jezek. 2000. Accumulation rate changes in central Greenland from passive microwave data. *Popular Geography* 27(4): 277-319.

Cowlshaw, Guy, and Robin Dunbar. 2000. *Primate conservation biology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Doniger, Wendy. 1999. *Splitting the difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Laumann, Edward O., John H. Gagnon, Robert T. Michael, and Stuart Michaels. 1994. *The social organization of sexuality: Sexual practices in the United States*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Smith, John Maynard. 1998. The origin of altruism. *Nature* 393: 639-40.

4. Thesis Checklist

Name _____ NSU ID# _____ Date _____

Thesis Title _____

Please consult the [Thesis Guidelines](#) and use this checklist to ensure that your thesis is conforming in every way

Submit	<input type="checkbox"/> Two printed copies with signatures on title page to the GPIA office <input type="checkbox"/> This completed thesis checklist with deposit copies <input type="checkbox"/> One electronic, pdf version to thesis@gpia.info
Format Specifications	<input type="checkbox"/> Margins must be 1 inch on the right, top and bottom and 1.5 inches on the left <input type="checkbox"/> Page numbers beginning on table of contents page starting with Arabic numeral 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Font: Times New Roman <input type="checkbox"/> Font size: The main text must be 12 point type. Footnotes, figures or tables must be 10 point <input type="checkbox"/> Spacing: The main text must be double spaced. Indented quotes must be single spaced. Footnotes, figures or tables should be single spaced <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers and captions: Footnotes or Endnotes must be numbered seriatim. Figures, illustrations or tables must be numbered and captioned <input type="checkbox"/> Paper: The deposit copies of the thesis must be submitted on white, acid-free, 20% cotton paper <input type="checkbox"/> Citations: <i>Unless otherwise specified</i> in consultation with your thesis supervisor, please use the Chicago Manual of Style format as outlined at gpia.info under Thesis Guidelines
Paper Guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/> Title Page (do not count or number this page) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Type the title of the thesis in all Capital letters centered 2" from the top of the page <input type="checkbox"/> Double space and type "by" <input type="checkbox"/> Double space and type the students' name, as the author, in full as it will appear in the diploma <input type="checkbox"/> Type "A THESIS" approximately 2.5" below the name <input type="checkbox"/> Double space then type (single spaced): Submitted to The New School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS in International Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Double space then type: The Graduate Program in International Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Double space and type the month and year in which the thesis is submitted <input type="checkbox"/> At the bottom of the page include signature lines for first and second readers and date approved <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract 200 words maximum (do not count or number this page) <input type="checkbox"/> Table of contents <input type="checkbox"/> List of Tables (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> List of Figures (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Glossary or list of abbreviations/symbols etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Text of thesis (divided into chapters or major sections. Each chapter or major section must begin on a new page, and the chapter titles in the text and in the table of contents must match.) <input type="checkbox"/> Appendices (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography

What regions does your thesis pertain to?

Which concentration(s) does your thesis most relate to? (you may circle more than one)

Cities and Urbanization Governance and Rights Conflict and Security Development Media and Culture

Please list 4 – 5 keywords that indentify your topic and central themes of your thesis

5. GPIA Thesis Title Page – formatting template:

[TITLE OF YOUR THESIS]

by

[Your Name as it will appear on the diploma]

A THESIS

Submitted to The New School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF ARTS in International Affairs

The Graduate Program in International Affairs

[Month and Year submitted]

First Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____

Second Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____

GPIA Thesis Title Page – sample:

THE GENDER IMPACT OF THE 1996 U.S. IMMIGRATION ACT
ON UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN MIGRANTS

by

Louise Baines Velazquez

A THESIS

Submitted to The New School in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF ARTS in International Affairs

The Graduate Program in International Affairs

May 2010

First Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____

Second Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____