

Masters Thesis Guidelines

The New School Graduate Program in International Affairs (GPIA)

This document contains:

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1. Overview of the Thesis Process:

The thesis is an independent project based on fieldwork, 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 New School 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 Form

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 (starting Fall 2008)

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 supervision 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) 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 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.
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.)
8. **Appendices** (if any)
9. **Bibliography**

Format specifications: These must be followed precisely.

- **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 copy of the thesis **must** be submitted on white, acid-free, 20% cotton paper.

3. GPIA Citation Guidelines

Unless otherwise specified in consultation with your thesis supervisor, please use the Chicago Manual of Style format as outlined below. Check with your thesis supervisor for their preferred citation style. Regardless of specific style, citations must follow academically accepted norms. You may also wish to consult Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed., 1996.

Chicago Manual of Style – Author-Date System

This guide is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style 15th ed.* (University of Chicago Press, 2003); 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/chicagod.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

Reference list:

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

In-Text:

(Doniger 1999, 65)

Two to three authors

Reference list:

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

In-Text:

(Cowlshaw and Dunbar 2000, 104-7)

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:

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

In-Text:

(Smith 1998, 639)

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 articles are often not included in a Reference list and are instead cited using running text style, as shown below.

In-Text:

“In an article on rampage killers (*New York Times*, April 10, 2000), Laurie Goodstein and William Glaberson describe...”

To cite electronic sources:

Web site

Reference list:

Web sites are often not included in a Reference list and are instead cited using running text style, as shown below.

In-text:

“On its Web site (<http://www.epl.org/library>), the Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees states...”

Weblog entry or comment

Reference list:

Blog entries are often not included in a Reference list and are instead cited using running text style, as shown below.

In-Text:

“In a comment posted to the Becker-Posner Blog (<http://www.becker-posner-blog.com/>) on March 6, 2006, Peter Pearson noted...”

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. 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
MASTERS 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 2007

First Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____

Second Reader: _____ Date Approved: _____

