

## **Plan Your Honors College Thesis**

**\*\*Please note: The thesis prep and honors thesis ‘courses’ are independent study projects with a specific professor. You will not find them listed on the course offerings for registration. Instead, you will need to meet with your thesis chair and fill out the [special course form](#) to enroll.**

You should begin exploring issues and subjects to research for their thesis long before graduation. Careful advanced planning is necessary so that internships, other coursework, or study abroad opportunities do not conflict with your ability to complete the thesis. Students should also seize opportunities to get to know their professors and discuss potential thesis topics, or even work with faculty in their own research areas. This will help you gain insight regarding what topic you choose for your thesis, as well making it easier to select your thesis chair and second reader.

**\*\*Remember—the thesis is a two semester process, so you’ll need to take the PS/CJ 4509 thesis prep course (1 credit) the semester before you complete your PS/CJ 4510 honors thesis (3 credits).**

**Complete the honors thesis application form and email it to the GJS Honors Director within two weeks of beginning your PS/CJ 4510 Honors Thesis.** Many students complete the form and submit it during their thesis prep (PS/CJ 4509) semester.

The form is available here: <http://gjs.appstate.edu/academics/honors-program>

## **Select Your Director and Second Reader**

You select your own thesis chair (aka: first reader, advisor, mentor), who will guide you in the research and writing process and assign the final grade. The director must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in either Political Science or Criminal Justice, depending on your major. Rare exceptions to this requirement can be made only with the permission of the Honors Director.

In addition to a chair, you will also select a second reader, who will provide insights from another perspective. Your chair can be of assistance in choosing a second reader if you don't have someone in mind. The second reader should be given the courtesy to comment on your draft(s), and you can make arrangements for this with your second reader; ideally, he or she is given the final draft at least a week or two before the thesis defense is scheduled. Together, the director and second reader will form the your thesis committee.

Students who are also completing the Honors College Thesis to satisfy departmental honors requirements must contact the GJS Honors Director for any additional requirements regarding the director and/or second reader.