

## **Guidelines for PHI 499: Senior Thesis** **Department of Philosophy and Religion**

Revised September, 2014

1. The thesis will be a standard research project of 6,000 to 8,000 words and will follow canons of good form and notation and prescribed in one of the standard style-guides, such as MLA or APA.
2. Under normal circumstances, each student should submit a *Philosophy Thesis Proposal Form* (together with a short prospectus) by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the junior years. The document should briefly describe the thesis project and should contain a time-table by which the different steps of the project should be realistically completed. It must also identify a thesis director (mentor). The student may consult with the department chair to identify an appropriate director. It is important that the student choose as director a faculty member who has similar interests and hence can provide useful assistance throughout the two semester duration of the thesis project.
3. The prospectus must be approved by the thesis director and the department chair. Particular attention must be paid to the matter of whether the proposal seems realistic and whether the nature of the project is suitable for a philosophy thesis.
4. The *Philosophy Senior Thesis Form* should be signed by the student, the faculty director and the department chair, signifying that an agreement concerning the nature of the project has been reached which is acceptable to all three parties.
5. Under normal circumstances, students will register for PHI 499 at least 2 semesters prior to their intended graduation. Ordinarily this will be in the fall semester of their senior year. If the student does not finish during the semester he or she enrolls in PHI 499, he or she will receive a grade of 'IP.' The student has one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the 'IP' is assigned to finish the work. If the work is not done within that year, the 'IP' is changed to 'NC' (no credit). It does not become an F.
6. When the student and director determine that the thesis is finished, the director will assign a final grade to the thesis. The director may ask the department chair to read the thesis and consult with the director about an appropriate final grade. The student has the right to appeal the grade in accordance with the policy on grade appeals stated in both the faculty and student handbooks.
7. The student is responsible for providing the Department of Philosophy and Religion with one copy of the thesis' final draft.