PHILOSOPHY HONORS PROGRAM - EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR HONORS THESIS

The Senior Honor’s Thesis represents a capstone experience designed to provide honors students with opportunities to develop a deeper knowledge of philosophy, a closer intellectual interaction with faculty, and more complete preparation for their career goals. The thesis should represent a student’s most sustained research as an undergraduate. It must be academically honest and in full compliance with ethical guidelines. An approved Senior Honors Thesis that has been orally presented in public is required for graduation as a Philosophy Honors student from East Tennessee State University.

ENROLLMENT

Typically, the Senior Honors Thesis is a yearlong project for which the student enrolls for three hours credit (under PHIL 4018) during the last semester of the senior year. Initial preparation for the thesis will begin in the previous semester in PHIL 4950, the capstone course. A student should plan on working a minimum of six to nine hours per week on the thesis project. Throughout the project, each student should engage in careful planning, thorough research, thoughtful analysis, good writing, and enthusiastic work.

THESIS COMMITTEE

A senior honors student should choose a thesis committee in conjunction with the Philosophy Honors Coordinator. The committee must consist of a thesis professor and a second reader, both from the Philosophy Department, and a third reader who must come from outside the department. The thesis professor and the student are jointly responsible for seeing that the student meets all deadlines and fulfills the expectations of the prospectus. A thesis director will receive one hour of teaching credit.

THESIS FORMAT

The thesis must be at least 7,500 words and no more than 15,000 words. It must be typed, double-spaced, in a standard 12 pt font with 1” margins. It must include a bibliography formatted in compliance with MLA or Chicago style.

The final copies must be permanently bound, but they may have a soft cover and/or spiral binding if the student chooses. Most students have binding done at a photocopying business and have four copies made: a required copy to be submitted to the Philosophy Honors Coordinator, a required copy to be submitted to University Honors Programs, a copy to keep, and a copy to be given to the thesis professor as a courtesy.

PROSPECTUS

The senior honors student should write a 2-5 page prospectus clearly describing the objective of the thesis, its scope and limitations, and a preliminary bibliography of ten to fifteen sources. The prospectus should be signed by both the student and the thesis professor and should be shown to all faculty members who are asked to serve as readers.

RECOMMENDED TIMETABLE

The following timetable establishes deadlines based on spring thesis registration. Deadlines for alternative registration are given in parentheses.

April 10 Choose a thesis professor in consultation with the Philosophy Honors Coordinator. Submit Honors Thesis Proposal Form with thesis professor’s signature.

April 15 Sign up for PHIL 4950 Senior Seminar

September- Conduct research for thesis under supervision of thesis professor. Complete November requirements for PHIL 4950.

December 1 Sign the prospectus and present it to the thesis professor for his or her signature. Choose second and third readers in consultation with the Philosophy Honors Coordinator. Give copies of the signed prospectus to the coordinator and the readers.

February 15 Present the first draft of the thesis to the thesis professor for review.

March 15 Present the second draft of the thesis to the thesis professor and the readers.

April 1 In conjunction with the Philosophy Honors Coordinator, set a date for a thesis presentation to be completed before April 20 (or 12/5). Make arrangements for publicity.

April 15 Submit two bound copies of the completed thesis, signed by the thesis professor, to the Philosophy Honors Coordinator—one for the department and one for Honors. You also may want to give a copy to the thesis professor.

Honors-in-Philosophy Check List

18 Credit Hours

\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL\_\_\_\_\_-088

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\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL 4950-088 (Senior Capstone Course, taken in the penultimate semester)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ PHIL 4018 (Thesis Research)

Thesis: see guidelines for due dates