

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To receive Political Science Honors, students are required to complete the two-quarter senior honors seminar (PS 191A-B). To be admitted to the seminar, a student must be senior standing in the first quarter of the seminar, have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.6 in Political Science (including lower division, courses taken through Education Abroad Program, and Summer Session) have completed all lower-division requirements including Political Science 30 and five upper-division courses. Also, students must have an adviser prior to enrolling in the Honors Seminar.

Writing project To be admitted to the seminar, students are required to have a member of the faculty read one of their papers, one which is a "substantial" piece of writing. (The department describes "substantial" as a paper in which the student has carefully developed an argument and systematically mustered evidence in support of it. This written work is intended to give students practice so that the 40-100-page thesis does not loom as an intimidating prospect. These papers may develop out of any of our upper division courses that require papers, any departmental seminars or in conjunction with course work completed on EAP or OAP.) In addition to making the request from the faculty that they read the paper to assess the preparedness for the honors seminar, please be sure to submit a copy (unofficial) of your transcript. (For ease of reading the transcript printed from StudentLink hit the key that says "subject". This will print the transcript in order of subjects versus quarter by quarter.) The recommendation/advisor form must be submitted to the department prior to the "Quarter begins" date published in that fall quarter's schedule of classes.

If the faculty who reads the paper feels that the student is adequately prepared for the seminar, they will sign the faculty recommendation form which states that they are also willing to advise the student (forms available in the department or as an attachment via e-mail from askpolisci@ucsd.edu).

Thesis grade Normally each thesis will be read by two members of the department faculty, each of whom will assign the thesis a point score. The standard of evaluation will be that normally used by each faculty member to grade seminar papers of graduating seniors. Grades, point scores, and their honors equivalent are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Grade/Thesis Points</u>	<u>Honors</u>
A	4.0	Highest Honors
	3.9	Highest Honors
	3.8	High Honors
	3.7	High Honors
A-	3.6	Honors
	3.5	Honors
A-/B+	3.4	No Honors
	3.3	No Honors
B	3.0	No Honors
B-	2.7	No Honors
C+	2.3	No Honors
C	2.0	No Honors

If the grades assigned by two readers differ by more than two points (e.g., 3.5 versus 3.8), the thesis will be read by a third reader, and the thesis grade will be the average of all three readings.

To graduate with honors in political science, a student must have received an average grade of 3.5 or higher on the honors thesis and maintained a 3.5 or above G.P.A. in the major through the end of the second quarter of the honors seminar.

Award of honors The award of honors is by vote of the Political Science faculty. Normally the award of honors will be based on the average of (1) (50%) the student's departmental grade point average at the end of the second quarter of the honors seminar, and (2) (50%) the grade assigned the honors thesis by the readers.