**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**ST. GEORGE CAMPUS**

**POL 499Y1 Y (Senior Thesis and Thesis Seminar)**

**2025-2026**

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| **ELIGIBILITY:** | a. Going into your 4th year  (i.e., you expect to complete at least 14.0 FCEs by the end of August 2025)    b. You must be enrolled in one of the following programs:  POL Specialist, POL Major **AND** have a GPA of at least 3.0 in Political Science courses  **OR**  c. You must be enrolled in an interdisciplinary program (i.e., a Major or Specialist Program  closely related to POL) **AND** have a CGPA of at least 3.3 |
| **EXCLUSION:** | Students are not allowed to enrol in Independent Study courses (POL 496H, POL 497H) **at the same time they are registered in POL 499Y**. |

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**Thesis (75%):**

* The thesis should be between 40-60 double-spaced pages (15,000 - 20,000 words).
* This is worth 75% of the final grade.
* The thesis is not strictly a “research paper” but rather a substantive piece of written work suitable for students in all sub-disciplines in political science. Thesis may variously address a particular research question, theory creation and testing, the critical analysis of a body of literature, or key political philosophical texts and the like.
* The thesis should be a new piece of work.

**Seminar (25%):**

* Students enrolled in POL 499Y will attend the Thesis Seminar.
* This is worth 25% of the final grade and is based on attendance, class participation and oral presentations.
* Instructor for the Thesis Seminar for 2025-2026 is TBA.
* The seminar is scheduled for Friday 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
* Location TBA.

**HOW TO APPLY**:

1) Contact David Zarnett, Undergraduate Advisor, polsci.advisor@utoronto.ca regarding potential supervisors.

2) Complete section A of the form, attach a short (approximately two pages double-spaced) thesis proposal to the application form.

3) Complete section B with your supervisor.

4) Return completed form to Elizabeth Jagdeo, Student and Alumni/Advancement Coordinator, e.jagdeo@utoronto.ca. The deadline for applications is June 15, 2024.

5) **Acceptance in POL 499Y is based on merit (GPA and the strength of the proposal).**

5) You will be notified by the Undergraduate Office by July 1st of the outcome of your application.

**(Complete this section)**

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| **A** | **Surname:** |  | **First names:** |  |
|  | **Student #:** |  | **College:** |  |

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| **Program(s) enrolled in:** |  | | | **Year of Study (e.g., 3rd year):** |  | **# of credits completed as of August 2025** |  |
| **E-mail Address:** | |  | | | | | |
| **Phone #:** | |  | | | | | |
| **Course #:** | | | **POL 499Y1 Y** | | | | |
| **Course topic/title:** | | |  | | | | |
| **Academic session:** | | | **2025-2026** | | | | |
| **Reason for taking the course:** | | |  | | | | |
| **List course #, title and session of Independent Study courses taken previously:** | | |  | | | | |

**(Complete this section with your Supervisor regarding the Thesis)**

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| **B** | **Thesis** | | **Weight of Thesis** | **Please indicate Due Date**  **(The due date must be no later than end of the course i.e., April 6, 2026 or as agreed with your supervisor and the Thesis Instructor)** |
|  | **Thesis should be between 40-60 double-spaced pages (15,000 - 20,000 words).** | | **75%** |  |
| **Arrangements for meetings between Supervisor and student:** |  | | |
| **Supervisor’s Name:**  **(*Must be a POL faculty member with a continuing academic appointment.*)** |  | | |
| **Supervisor’s Tel:** |  | | |
| **Supervisor’s Signature:** |  | | |
| **Date:** |  | | |

**(Return completed form to Elizabeth Jagdeo (e.jagdeo@utoronto.ca) for the Undergraduate Director’s approval)**

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| **C** | **Undergraduate Director’s Signature** |  | **Date** |  |