

To: **Potential Senior Thesis Writers**
From: Undergraduate Program Office
Date: September 2009

- Your Study Card will not be signed for Government 99 until you have an adviser and have submitted the enclosed Senior Thesis Registration form and your Senior Thesis Writers Seminar sectioning form. If you do not have an adviser, please consult the Undergraduate Program Office as soon as possible for help in finding one. Please also see the last item in this memo for more information on the requirements for students looking for advisers.
- The Senior Thesis Writers Seminar will meet each week for one hour ten times during the Fall semester and three times after the Winter Break. Participation in this seminar is intended to supplement the traditional one-on-one advising. You still need to have a signed contract with a primary adviser in order to enroll in Government 99.
- If you do not have an adviser when Study Cards are due, you will have to add Government 99 later in the semester once you have found one. You are required to obtain the permission of the DUS in order to add Gov 99. All courses must be added/dropped before the fifth Monday of the term (October 5), and after the third Monday (September 21) there is a Registrar's fee to add/drop courses. Don't wait until the last day to obtain signatures.
- On Friday, October 2, a thesis prospectus (approved and signed by your Advisor) is due to the Undergraduate Program Office. This document should present your research design, as discussed in the Guide for Thesis Writers. If you do not hand in a signed prospectus, you cannot receive fall semester credit for Government 99. Secondary concentrators must also submit the prospectus.
- **Joint Concentrators:** Writing a senior thesis as a joint concentrator presents the challenge of creating a truly interdisciplinary research project, since you must meet the standards set for quality work in two different fields. Thus, advisers are particularly important for keeping your thesis experience a calm and positive one.

You should have a formal thesis adviser in your primary field and a secondary adviser in your secondary field. Regardless of whether you are a primary or secondary concentrator in Government, please use the enclosed Senior Thesis Registration Form to notify the Undergraduate Program Office of your formal and secondary adviser. This must be submitted to the Undergrad Office at the time you get your study card signed. If you are a secondary concentrator in Government, you do not enroll in Government 99, but in the senior tutorial of your primary field.

- If you intend to write a thesis, but do not yet have an adviser, you should have submitted a précis to the Undergraduate Program Office in July. If you did not do this, and do not have an adviser by Study Card Day, you must see the DUS for permission to write a senior thesis. Please call the Undergraduate Program Office ASAP to set up an appointment.