Thesis Timeline

***Please note: GVPT396 and 397 may count for Upper Level Major Requirements upon successful completion of BOTH. If the student completes 396 but does not continue to 397, then neither course will be counted towards graduation requirements.***

Spring Semester of Junior Year- GVPT396

Early February Should have already registered for GVPT 396 and set up a regular time to meet with your thesis advisor.

Mid-Late February Thesis Question must be well defined.

Comprehensive bibliography should be complete.

Mid-March Have completed no less than one-half of your research program (in other words, have worked through one-half of your bibliography and/or data).

Week Before Finals Give your thesis advisor a detailed outline of the structure of the thesis showing how the argument is going to be developed.

Be sure you have registered for GVPT 397 for the Fall semester.

Summer Break

Complete ALL of your research (i.e. have all your data assembled and analyzed; or have read through and digested the primary sources, or have worked through major secondary literature on your topic).

If possible, start writing your thesis.

Fall Semester- GVPT397

First Week Begin writing!

End of September- Give your thesis advisor a draft of the 1st half of the thesis according to your outline.

End of October Give your thesis advisor a draft of the 2nd half of your thesis.

Submit thesis title to Honors Assistant for graduation program.

November Revise 1st draft of thesis based on advisor's comments.
**Mid-November** In consultation with your advisor, pick the two other members of your examining committee and schedule a date for your Thesis Defense (no later than the second week in December).

**End of November** Complete Your Thesis!

**Early December** Defend Your Thesis. This will be an oral defense lasting between one and one-half hours. Your thesis committee will question you about the various arguments you make and review your data and or other research materials. The quality of your thesis and of the defense will determine whether you will receive High Honors, Honors, or No Honors.