

## Student Presentation Guidelines For the Senior Thesis Project

Please be advised that since the Senior Thesis Project marks the culmination of your academic efforts in this Department, the oral examination, which comprises a significant portion of your project grade, should not be treated lightly.

The oral defense is a chance for you to expand on the ideas presented in your written document, and to engage in an informed dialogue with faculty members on your committee.

You will be evaluated according to how familiar you are with the research on your topic, how well you are able to defend your argument without becoming defensive, and whether you are able to think of the scope of your project, beyond the pages of the document, in terms its contribution to the field at large.

Students are expected to set up a time and location for the Oral Examination (a one hour slot) by consulting the time-table that is posted in the lobby of the main office (Arter 102) when the written document is due.

Students should:

- Check for a time when all three members on their committee are available.
- The student should pencil in their name for that one-hour slot on the time-table.
- Check the availability of a suitable location. This may be the Thesis Advisor's office (if s/he so prefers), or you can reserve Arter 111, Arter 107, or Arter 1 (the Green room downstairs), depending upon your technical requirements.
- Arter 107 has a reservation sheet behind the door to that room. You can check and pencil in a one-hour reservation for your defense. Please take the help of the Department Secretary, Samantha Stephens, in setting up reservations for Arter 111 or Arter 1.
- Once you have set a date, time, and location, you must e-mail all your committee members and notify them of the details immediately. Only when all three have responded by e-mail in the affirmative, is your defense date/time confirmed.

For the oral examination, students should be formally attired. The dress-code for men is a formal shirt and trousers. For women, the choice is between a long skirt and trousers, with a formal shirt.

Students are expected to make a 10 minute presentation to their committee members at the start of the Senior Thesis defense. The presentation should include:

- How you became interested in your topic
- What is the argument you are making, and why?
- What is your case-study for analysis (where applicable), and why this choice?
- What are the main communication/theater theories or concepts you have used in your project?
- How does your thesis project contribute to the field of communication/theater?
- Video Production students will screen their video project, and then make a 7 minute presentation as outlined above.

You may make your presentation seated, or you may request a podium if you are using a classroom. You may use power-point slides or index cards to keep track of your main points. If you need technology, please make sure that you reserve Arter 111 for your defense. Your presentation must be within the time limit specified.

The committee will ask you questions at the end of your presentation. This Q&A typically lasts 30-45minutes, at the end of which, you will be asked to leave the room for about 10 minutes. When you are invited back into the room, the committee will inform you about whether or not you have been successfully completed the Senior Thesis Project. The cumulative grade for the Senior Thesis Project (document + Oral) will be made available with your other course grades at a later date.