

PLAN II THESIS

FIRST SEMESTER PROGRESS REPORT

STUDENT, complete this form with your supervisor and second reader, then turn it in to the Plan II office by the deadline posted in the thesis course syllabus. **Also attach a copy of your prospectus, outline, and bibliography (or draft of creative work and outline if doing a creative thesis).**

Student: _____ EID: _____

Thesis Title: _____

1. SUPERVISOR, please check one of the following:

- Good progress:** Student has been meeting/communicating with me regularly and has turned in a draft of the prospectus, outline, and bibliography (or draft of creative work and treatise outline).
- Progress, but with some concerns:** Communication could be better and/or work is underdeveloped and/or late. *Please explain your concerns in comments.*
- Poor progress:** Communication has been problematic and/or work is incomplete. At this point it appears likely the student may receive an incomplete or failing grade.

Comments:

Supervisor signature _____ *Date* _____

2. SECOND READER, please check one of the following:

- Good progress:** Student has been meeting/communicating with me regularly and has turned in a draft of the prospectus, outline, and bibliography (or draft of creative work and treatise outline).
- Progress, but with some concerns:** Communication could be better and/or work is underdeveloped and/or late. *Please explain your concerns in comments.*
- Poor progress:** Communication has been problematic and/or work is incomplete. At this point it appears likely the student may receive an incomplete or failing grade.

Comments:

Second Reader signature _____ *Date* _____

NOTE TO THE STUDENT:

In situations where a face-to-face meeting is not possible, an e-mail from a professor's UT email account confirming one or more of the statements listed may be printed and attached to this form in lieu of a signature.

Plan II Honors Thesis Grading Guidelines

(excerpted from pages 19-21 of the 2013-14 Plan II Thesis Manual)

A full range of grades, from an A to an F, may be given for a senior thesis. You are not guaranteed an A. An A thesis should be much better than an A term paper, but is not expected to be at the graduate level. The thesis is worth a passing grade (D or better) when both the supervisor and second reader agree. Only those that meet the highest standards for honors work should receive an A. If you turn in a thesis that is below average, you may prefer to accept a very low grade rather than take an incomplete and delay graduation while you rewrite it. If the thesis is found unacceptable or unfinished, the supervisor may assign an incomplete and allow the student to finish by a date convenient to the supervisor and second reader. Otherwise, it will be assigned an F. Students are entitled to an opportunity to fail. NOTE: Incompletes are rarely assigned and are only considered appropriate in extenuating, non-academic circumstances.

Your final grade in the thesis course consists of two components: Thesis Product (the grade assigned to your work by your thesis supervisor and second reader), and the Thesis Class (class meetings, assignments, and deadlines detailed in the Thesis Class syllabus). If you miss multiple meetings and deadlines in the Thesis class, your final grade in the course will be one letter grade lower than the Thesis Product grade assigned by your thesis supervisor and second reader. This is explained further in the Thesis Class syllabus.

Because of the diversity of Plan II thesis topics and formats, no one set of grading standards can be applied universally. Supervisors and Second Readers assess thesis quality based on the standards for their fields, which varies across disciplines. What follows below are the most general guidelines regarding expectations in each semester of the thesis course.

FIRST SEMESTER

The grade for the first semester of the two-semester thesis course should be based on the amount of research completed and the quality of the prospectus, outline, annotated bibliography, and 10 pages of draft text, which is due at the end of the first semester. For a creative thesis, the grade should be based on your complete first draft. Talk with your advisor early in the first semester about how much work he or she expects from you and when it is expected.

This grade reflects not only the quality of the thesis work but also the progress of the thesis research (or first draft for a creative thesis). A grade of A would typically be given to a student who has been working consistently throughout the semester, meeting with their supervisor and second reader regularly, and has reached a point where s/he has consulted an appropriate amount of resources, has crafted a detailed outline of the thesis, including a well defined thesis question, and has begun the writing process with 10 draft pages (any chapter of the thesis is acceptable for these 10 pages). A grade of B is usually given to a student who has been working diligently but may require more research or outlining before being ready to write at the start of the next semester. A grade of C tends to be given to the student who has gotten something but not a great deal done, usually because s/he did little work until close to the end of the semester and then made a gargantuan last minute effort.

FINAL SEMESTER

A grade of A (*exemplary*) on the final thesis should demonstrate thorough research through a familiarity with authoritative sources and methods of the discipline, a well-reasoned analysis of the research methods and sources used, direct application of the research to the argument being made, a cogent conclusion based on the research, and superior written presentation of the thesis argument. A grade of B (*better than required*) should demonstrate all of the above, but may use fewer or less appropriate research sources and methods, and sufficient (rather than superior) written presentation. A grade of C (*as required but no better*) will indicate a basic grasp of the data and appropriate sources, limited application of the research towards the argument being made, and merely acceptable written style. A grade of D (*barely passable*) indicates minimally acceptable research findings in addition to poor analysis and writing standards. A grade of F is appropriate where the thesis represents a crudely thrown-together last minute effort or even evidence of unoriginal work.