

Scripps MENA Studies Thesis Guidelines

MENA Studies requires a two-semester senior thesis.

During fall semester senior year, MENA Studies majors should choose a Senior Seminar (190) in the discipline that most closely fits the methods they plan to prioritize for their thesis or, if a Senior Seminar is not available in the chosen discipline, enroll in an independent study with a MENA Studies faculty member who will be one of their thesis readers. In that senior seminar or independent study, students should formulate their thesis topics and methods, choose their readers, develop their research question, produce a detailed outline, conduct research, and write two chapter drafts.

During spring semester, students complete drafting their complete thesis, seek comprehensive feedback from their readers, and revise and finalize their work.

Honors students must present their theses to a public audience, ideally as part of Capstone Day.

First and Second Readers:

Thesis students must have two readers (both for honors and regular theses). One reader must be a MENA Studies or MES faculty member at the Claremont Colleges and one reader must be a Scripps faculty member (these can be the same person). Ideally, your readers will be professors with whom you have studied and whose fields of expertise include the proposed topic. Readers evaluate theses independently and then consult on a final grade.

It is your responsibility to establish with each reader the details of their input (frequency and if they want to see individual chapters or a full draft) and when and how you will receive their feedback.

Make sure that you have addressed your readers' suggestions and concerns about chapter drafts prior to turning in your final draft. If you are *not* taking up a major suggestion from a reader, you should probably discuss that with them in person. If you cannot reconcile contradictory feedback, the feedback of the first reader takes priority.

Dual Majors:

Many MENA Studies majors are dual majors. Dual majors should follow the thesis process of their other major and write a thesis that includes MENA Studies content. If the other major does not require a 190 senior seminar, the student should instead take an additional upper-division MENA Studies course to fulfill major requirements. It is the student's responsibility to discuss thesis *with readers in both majors* at the beginning of fall semester.

Dual majors who wish to attempt Honors in MENA Studies must produce a more substantial thesis than a regular thesis in that major and present their thesis publicly, ideally at Capstone Day. Students should inform both their readers that they wish to attempt Honors early, so that "more substantial" may be defined by those readers ASAP.

Paperwork:

- **Senior Major Form:** This must be filed before you register for spring semester, *even if you already filed a junior major form*. Check with registrar for the exact due date.
- **Senior Thesis Registration Form:** This must be filed in order to register for spring thesis. This is due by the add deadline of spring semester. Do not wait until the last minute—you need signatures from your first and second readers.

TURNING IN YOUR THESIS:

The thesis due date is posted on the Registrar's website. Please follow the Registrar Office's instructions for turning in your thesis.

Your thesis should:

- be in 12-pt font, double-spaced, double-sided and bound, with either 1.25 or 1.5 margins
- include a table of contents, a [cover page](#), and page numbers
- have consistent references and a bibliography (refer to the style guides in the library webpage)
- meet the minimum length of 50 pages for regular theses and 70 pages for honors theses; and NOT exceed the maximum page limit of 90 pages for all theses. All page limits here refer to the thesis in its entirety, including title page, table of contents, acknowledgements, the text, illustrations, notes, appendices (if applicable), and bibliography). Dual majors should instead follow the requirements of their other major.