Contract for Thesis Courses
HUMA (Humanities) 498 and 499 and REL (Religion) 498 and 499
HUMA/REL 498: Research in the Humanities/Research in Religion (3 credits)
HUMA/REL 499: Senior Thesis (3 credits)

In the Department of Global Humanities and Religions, majors have the option of writing a senior thesis, through the courses designated HUMA/REL 498 and 499. The HUMA/REL 498/499 requirement is normally completed senior year during two consecutive quarters under the direction of a single professor from the Department. Students are responsible for making arrangements with a professor for the sequence. This is often done in consultation with their department advisor and other members of the department, usually at the end of their junior or beginning of their senior year. Professors accept HUMA/REL 498/499 students at their own discretion; they typically work with no more than two students at a time. Students should identify potential topics and an appropriate advisor during the quarter preceding the quarter in which they will take HUMA/REL 498.

A successful senior thesis is a piece of original research in the humanities and related fields. As such, it will be based upon a thorough and significant engagement with a relevant corpus of primary sources, informed by thoughtful use of relevant scholarly studies and/or theoretical frameworks. In some cases, this includes engaging in field work. Students research and write their thesis in consultation with a faculty advisor whose field of academic expertise is well suited for the selected topic.

Those students who write a thesis also have the possibility to be considered for graduation with departmental honors.

Departmental Honors Policy: BA Humanities students who have completed HUMA/REL 498 and HUMA/REL 499, have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 in their major courses and receive a grade of ‘B’ or higher for their Senior Thesis (in HUMA/REL 499) meet the requirements for departmental honors.

Each professor establishes his or her own specific requirements and grading systems for HUMA/REL 498 and 499, but the Department as a whole agrees on the following basic guidelines:

**HUMA/REL 498:**
- a list of about 8-10 books or sets of articles, to be read independently and discussed in the weekly meetings
- weekly meetings of at least one hour with the professor
- an annotated bibliography
- a written prospectus for the senior thesis (3-4 pages)

**HUMA/REL 499:**
- further reading and research with a clear focus on theme and sub-themes of senior paper
- weekly meetings of at least one hour with the professor
- participation in 1-2 meetings with other majors enrolled in HUMA/REL 499, when possible
- a senior thesis (normally between 30-50 pages in length) written in at least two drafts
- students should aim to have a full first draft of the thesis no later than Week 8 of the quarter

HUMA/REL 498 and 499 are taken for a letter grade.
The student, in consultation with his or her director, will request that a second professor in the Department also read and provide comments on a penultimate draft of the thesis. Arrangements for a second reader should be made at the start of the quarter in which a student is enrolled in HUMA/REL 499.

Students are strongly encouraged by the Department to present their 498/499 projects at the Department’s annual Scholars Week symposium (spring quarter, usually in the eighth week), in years when that event is held by the Department. Presentations are 5-10 minutes long and may be followed by questions from the audience.

The student must submit the final version of the senior thesis in two hard copies—one to the director, the other to the department office.

The department chair will be the instructor of record for HUMA and REL 498 and 499. This contract must be on file in the department office in order to register for any of these courses, and a contract must be completed for each thesis course taken. The thesis advisor must email the student’s grade to the department chair by 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following Finals Week.

Signing this contract indicates agreement to the policies outlined above.

Course (circle prefix and number): HUMA REL 498 499

Term: ________________________________

Provisional Topic: __________________________________________________

Student Name (printed): _____________________________________________

Student Signature: ________________________________________________

Date____________________

Advisor Name (printed): _____________________________________________

Advisor Signature: ________________________________________________

Date____________________