**M.A. Thesis Evaluation**

Date: Student Name:

Title of Thesis:

Name of Thesis Committee Member:

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| **Does the student’s thesis meet expectations?**  **The thesis:** | **Does Not Meet Expectations** | **Meets Expectations** | **Exemplary** |
| Describes and implements a research design appropriate for assessing existing hypotheses, and for assessing the thesis’ proposed argument. |  |  |  |
| Synthesizes the central debates among political scientists pertinent to the thesis topic. |  |  |  |
| Evaluates the strengths and limitations of the central analytical approaches used by political scientists to address the thesis topic. |  |  |  |
| In analysis of existing literature and presentation of thesis argument, uses salient political science concepts. |  |  |  |
| Identifies the contributions of the thesis to the relevant literature in Political Science. |  |  |  |
| Identifies the substantive importance of the thesis, for some phenomenon(a) in the world. |  |  |  |
| Demonstrates advanced level of knowledge of a theme related to diversity, development, or the environment. |  |  |  |
| Effectively uses evidence to support arguments. |  |  |  |
| Acknowledges assumptions on which the thesis’ argument is based and fairly raises and handles counter-arguments. |  |  |  |
| Contains strong topic sentences and builds upon the argument suggested in the thesis statement. Clear transitions connect ideas both on the paragraph level and the sentence level. |  |  |  |
| Has a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. |  |  |  |
| Demonstrates advanced skills in the basics in sentence completeness, structure, variety, word choice, and punctuation. It maintains a clear and efficient style. |  |  |  |
| Uses proper citations. |  |  |  |

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Committee Member Signature Date