DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Senior Thesis Approval Form

Student Name ____________________________________________________________

Stetson ID # __________________________

Year and Semester for Completion of Thesis __________________________________

If you are a double major:
   Indicate other major _____________________________________________________

   Primary department for which you are writing your senior project ______________

Thesis Proposal (Attach as separate sheet which must include the following:
   (1) Title
   (2) Thesis Statement
   (3) A two to three page narrative statement of the plan of the argument, which may include an outline
   (4) Bibliography

   I accept the responsibility of adhering to the departmental requirements and deadlines for completion of the Senior Research Project.

______________________________________                               ________________________
Signature of Student                                                                          Date

I have discussed this Senior Research proposal with the student and agree to serve as the student’s Senior Research advisor.

______________________________________                                ________________________
Signature of Faculty Supervisor                                                          Date

______________________________________                              ________________________
Signature of Department Chair                                                          Date
GUIDELINES FOR THE SENIOR PROJECT  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
STETSON UNIVERSITY

The Senior Project, PY 498, (4hrs), is the capstone course in the philosophy curriculum and is designed for students seeking the B.A. Degree with a major in philosophy. This project takes the form of a senior thesis. This project, including the faculty-supervised processes of planning, research, writing, and oral defense, of the thesis provides philosophy majors with an opportunity to integrate and focus their philosophical interests and skills on a subject of their own choosing and to demonstrate their disciplined ability to conduct academic research of a selected topic in the field of Philosophy. Guided by a supervisor from the philosophy faculty, students are expected to exemplify skills of independent research, critical and creative thinking, formal writing, and oral presentation of the project.

The Philosophy major should adhere to the following guidelines for successful completion of the project:

1. During the junior year, the student must meet with the Chair of the Department to submit a proposed research topic for approval. A student will not be permitted to register for PY 498 until he or she has received approval for the research topic by the Chair.

2. Once the topic is accepted, the student will be assigned a faculty supervisor who will oversee the student’s work. The faculty supervisor will be responsible for assessing and grading the student’s research. The grade will be based on the ability of the student to meet deadlines, the quality of the research and writing, an assessment of the final written product, and the oral presentation of the project (to the Philosophy faculty).

3. Senior research projects may not be completely during a summer term.

4. The project shall consist of a critical study of a topic in the field of Philosophy. Through the research paper the student should demonstrate an awareness of the major tools, methods, and resources for Philosophy and the ability to think and write clearly and critically. In writing the paper, the student must:

5. Upon acceptance of the research paper, the faculty supervisor will schedule and oral defense. The oral defense gives the student an opportunity to discuss the project with the faculty of the Department of Philosophy, fellow philosophy majors, and other interested students and faculty. The student should be prepared to discuss how the research was conducted, the method of presentation, and the results of the research. The student is responsible for producing enough copies of the research project for each of the faculty members in the department. The faculty supervisor will notify the faculty of the scheduled oral defense and will distribute copies of the project to each faculty member.