WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM IN PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

M.A. Thesis Manual

Procedures and Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of the Masters Thesis

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Jane Bambrick, M.L.S., M.A. Reference Librarian

David and Lorraine Cheng Library

**I INTRODUCTION**

The master’s thesis is an optional requirement for the master’s degree in Public Policy and International Affairs. It is a work of original research that involves a comprehensive review of the research literature on a specific topic, a carefully planned research design, the collection and analyses of data and a thoughtful discussion of the results.

**Benefits of Writing a Thesis**

The time and effort required in writing a thesis are rewarded with an original project that is excellent preparation for professional or graduate work. It helps applications for both graduate work and professional positions stand out, and is good preparation for studying law and other fields by providing solid experience in conducting research and developing original analyses. Finally, theses provide students with the distinction that leads to the department’s prestigious awards for graduates, such as the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

The work should demonstrate competence in social science research methods, in the protocols of bibliographic documentation, and in critical thinking. This thesis is to be conceived of as an article worthy of publication Topics and approaches may vary, depending on the student's interests, experience and availability of data. Some may be based upon a student's professional or internship experience, while others may be more theoretically or historically oriented. Some may employ quantitative research methods while others may use qualitative methods. Some examples of approaches to thesis topics include:

* An evaluation of a policy or program that has been instituted by a particular organization, by a state government, the federal government, other governments, or intergovernmental organizations.
* A historical investigation that seeks to answer the question of why certain policies or policy approaches, political realignments or events in state or national politics or international relations occur when and how they do.
* A comparison of two or more city's, state's or nation's approaches to a particular policy dilemma or issue.
* An investigation of the role played by any number of political actors (e.g. politicians, executive branch agencies, the courts, interest groups or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ideologically-oriented think tanks, the mass media, social movements or criminal networks) in either the adoption, implementation or failure to adopt a particular policy.
* The proposal of a new policy program to meet problems inherent in current policy approaches to an issue.
* An action project that is undertaken and then evaluated.

Completion of the thesis will provide students with a thorough understanding of the research process. It will also develop the knowledge, skills and abilities that will enable students to understand and critically evaluate published research. Finally, the experience will entail research methodology that is needed by those students who are interested in pursuing an advanced degree or seeking professional employment with a research-oriented public policy organization. In order to graduate, the thesis must be approved by the student’s Thesis Committee, the Graduate Director and the Library’s thesis coordinator. The thesis, along with departmental approvals, must be submitted to the Library by May 30th for May graduation, by June 30th for August graduation, and by November 30th for January graduation. **There will be no exceptions to these deadlines**. Students who miss a deadline will graduate on the next graduation date. **Students are reminded that they will need to submit a new application for graduation to the Office of Graduate Admissions should they miss the original deadline.**

Students must follow the requirements set forth in this thesis guide. All theses must be submitted in the format required for electronic publication by **ProQuest.** A small fee will be required.The Cheng Library accepts only electronic theses for online submission. **ProQuest** forms and instructions must be obtained from the library’s Thesis Coordinator, Jane Bambrick. **Students who are in their second semester of Thesis Writing (POL 703) should make an appointment to meet with Ms. Bambrick to obtain these forms and guidelines before they get too far into the completion of their thesis.**

Students’ theses will be added to **Dissertations & Theses@William Paterson University** which provides access to the full text of these theses to all members of the William Paterson Community at no charge via **ProQuest's UMI Dissertation Publishing**. Furthermore, ***ProQuest*** will add our theses to its comprehensive file, ***ProQuest Dissertations and Theses*** *(****PQDT)*** which is a database that contains the most comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses in the world. It is customary for graduate students to consult the database to make sure their proposed thesis or dissertation topics are original. Although the Cheng Library does not subscribe to the full text of the database, individual theses or dissertations can be ordered by students for a small fee. To access the ***PQDT*** via the Cheng Library, go to www.wpunj.edu/library, click *Find articles*, go to *Dissertations Abstracts* and ask a reference librarian for the password. This password is available only in the Library. Once connected to the database, students can access the bibliographic information and abstract of theses from throughout the world. Students must decide between **ProQuest’s *Open Access* or *Traditional*** publishing options and are offered the opportunity to bind their theses.

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**: Students are responsible for following the requirements set forth in this thesis guide. It is the student’s responsibility to locate appropriate materials, perform the necessary research, develop conclusions, and present all of the above in a form which meets standards acceptable to the discipline. **Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will result in serious disciplinary actions as specified in the graduate catalogue. Students must act ethically in all aspects of the thesis process. Students are expected to know, understand and follow the University policies on academic integrity.**

**II THE PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

### The writing of the thesis requires registration for two 3-credit “courses”—POL 702, Thesis Writing I and POL 703, Thesis Writing II--over the period of two semesters, or a semester and a summer. While enrolled in POL 702 the student will work closely with their Thesis Advisor on a one-to-one basis to complete a Thesis Proposal (see description below in section III). The Thesis Proposal must be approved by the Thesis Committee and the Graduate Director before the student can register for POL 703.

The final thesis must be submitted to the Thesis Committee and Graduate Program Director **no later than two (2) weeks prior to the student’s anticipated graduation date.**  If students fail to complete their thesis by the due date for graduation, they must make arrangements with their Thesis Advisor to get an *Incomplete* for the semester. They must then work out a plan, in consultation with the Thesis Advisor and other committee members, for the completion of the thesis in a timely manner. They will not be allowed to graduate until the thesis has been approved and graded. If they have already applied for graduation, but failed to complete their thesis in time, they must reapply for graduation at a later date. Three periods of graduation include May, August and January. Please remember that faculty have busy schedules and are often away during the summer months, so plan accordingly!

### Thesis Course Grade

### After the thesis has been received and evaluated by other committee members and determined to be in final form, the Thesis Advisor will assign it a grade.

**BEGIN PLANNING DURING YOUR FIRST YEAR**

Since the research process is a time-consuming one and some faculty may be on sabbatical or otherwise unavailable during certain semesters, students are advised to start thinking of the general area in which they would like to conduct research during their first year and to start consulting with faculty whom you think might be appropriate to supervise your thesis. The Graduate Director is familiar with the research interests of the faculty and can help you to choose a primary Thesis Advisor. Students will not receive a letter grade for the semester they are enrolled in POL 702 until after they have completed the thesis. The grade they receive for the finished thesis will be the grade they receive for both semesters of Thesis Writing, I and II.

**THE THESIS COMMITTEE**

Each student will choose one Thesis Advisor and two other readers. The primary advisor will be someone from the Political Science faculty who has expertise in the particular field or subject which the student has chosen as his/her research topic. The second reader must include a faculty member with expertise in methodology. Four members of our current faculty fit that profile: Wartyna Davis, Arnold Lewis, Stephen Shalom, and Michael Thompson. The third reader can be someone whose research area(s) are not directly related to the research topic but whose general area of research has some relevance (e.g. if you are doing a comparison of the health care policies in two or more countries, you will want to choose a comparativist even if his/her expertise is not in the field of health care). This third advisor may be someone from another department, but the choice must be made in consultation with the Director of the graduate program. **Thesis advisors must be chosen by the end of the semester preceding the semester in which the student will take POL 702. Other committee members must be chosen by the beginning of the semester in which POL 702 will be taken.**

**GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM & HONORS RECEPTION**

At the end of each spring semester a Graduate Colloquium is held at which students who are completing their theses, as well as those who are completing their internship papers, will present their papers to an audience composed of faculty, administration, relatives and friends. A reception with dinner will follow the presentations and the awards ceremony.

**III THE THESIS PROPOSAL**

The Proposal is a double-spaced paper, not including the bibliography, that concerns the significance and uniqueness of your approach to the topic, an evaluation of existing literature, a thesis statement or question, and a general plan of research. The proposal is the product of the first semester of thesis writing (POL 702, Thesis Writing I). It will be evaluated by the Thesis Advisor and the other members of the Thesis Committee. If approved by all three, the student is then certified to register for the second semester of thesis writing (POL 703). **No student will be allowed to register for POL 703 until a Proposal has been approved by the Committee, who will sign a form entitled, “Thesis Proposal Certification.”**  **The student is responsible for obtaining the signatures of the committee members and delivering the signed Thesis Proposal Certification form to the Graduate Director.** A copy of this form is found in Appendix I. The Thesis Proposal Certification form is found in Appendix I of this document. The Proposal should include, but is not limited to, the following sections:

**Title Page:** This should be headed, "Thesis Proposal." Underneath will be the title of your Thesis, your name, address, telephone number and email address.

**Purpose Statement:** A paragraph describing the question, problem or thesis that the

Thesis is intended to answer.

**Rationale of the Study**: In this section you are to explain why this study is important. For example, you might want to describe the lack of research surrounding your topic or the uniqueness of your approach.

**Literature Review**: An evaluative survey of relevant literature on the subject. The purpose of the literature review is to explore what has been done on your topic or on areas that impinge on your topic. It will help you generate original approaches to the topic. Some questions to ask yourself when writing the literature review include: "What have others said about this topic? What theories address it and what do they say? Are there consistent findings, do past studies disagree, are there gaps in the research or flaws that you feel you can remedy?

**Thesis Statement:** • State the question that you are seeking to answer.

• Assert that this question remains unanswered.

• Argue why this question is worth answering at all.

• State your thesis about the question. A thesis is a hypothesis about what you expect to find after you have applied your methodology to the body of evidence you will be exploring.

In stating the thesis, clarity is of utmost importance. Here it is not a good idea to beat around the bush. Use clear, concise language and exact terminology to avoid misleading the reader.

**Research Plan:** A research plan which outlines 1) possible sources of data (data bases, library collections, organizational archives, populations/institutions to be surveyed, interviewed or observed); 2) the research design to be employed (quantitative, qualitative or mixed: regression analysis, survey; case study, interviews, observation, content analysis, grounded-theory, phenomenological, etc.); 3) limitations of the study. For example, will you be able to generalize about a specific population? Are you limited by your sample, procedures or sources; does this study suggest further areas of research? 4) a timeline for proceeding with the research and writing of the Thesis;

**Bibliography:** A preliminary selected bibliography of the relevant books, case studies, data sources and journal articles on the subject., including the references you have used in writing the Proposal. (Not all of these will necessarily be used in the final Thesis.)

**IV THESIS DOCUMENT: STRUCTURE AND STYLE**

**A. Organization and Content**

Every thesis must have the pages and sections noted below. Dedication and acknowledgement pages are optional. The exact order of the pages is as follows:

 Title Page

 Signature page **(Note: signatures are** **not included in copy submitted to ProQuest for publication but they are included on the copy given to the PPIA Graduate Director.**)

 Copyright page

 Abstract

 Dedication (if used)

 Acknowledgements (if used)

 Table of Contents

 List of Tables (if used)

 List of Figures (if used)

 Thesis Text (divided into chapters, if necessary)

 Bibliography of references used

 Appendices (if used)

The abstract, acknowledgements, table of contents, lists of tables and figures, references, and appendices have a title in uppercase centered at the top of the first (or only) page as illustrated below:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Chapters are titled as follows:

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

For further formatting and content details for each of these pages see the **sample pages** in Appendix II of this manual.

**B. Title Page**

The words in the title of the thesis should be selected carefully to represent as accurately as possible the subject content. The words in the title are important access points to researchers who may use computerized keyword search techniques to identify works in various subject areas. The title is all in capital letters, centered within the left and right margins, double-spaced, about 2 inches from the top of the page. Whenever possible, the following guidelines should be observed:

1. Use full and proper names of people, places, organisms, etc.

2. Spell out abbreviations for specialized vocabulary

3. Use word substitutes for formulas, symbols, superscripts, Greek characters, etc.

4. Include all appropriate accents and diacritical marks.

At the vertical and horizontal center of the margins and double-spaced are the following five lines (all centered):

Line 1: A Thesis

Line 2: Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Political Science

Line 3: of the William Paterson University of New Jersey

Line 4: in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Line 5: Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs

The following three lines are centered within the margins approximately 1.5 inches from the bottom of the page and are double-spaced:

Line 1: by

Line 2: Student's Name

Line 3: Month and Year of degree conferral (no comma between month and year)

The student's name must appear as it is on file in the University Registrar's Office. The date on the title page should be the date of degree conferral, not the date the thesis is submitted. The thesis title and the student's name must be exactly the same wherever they appear in the thesis: title page, copyright page, and acceptance page

**C. The Abstract**

The Abstract should state the problem or thesis, describe the methods and procedures used, and give the main results or conclusions. The abstract should be limited in length to 150 words and should be double-spaced. The heading of the Master's abstract is the word, "ABSTRACT," in all capital letters, centered within the margins at the top of the page. **Do not number the abstract pages, and do not count the abstract when numbering preliminary pages.**

**D. The Body of the Text**

**1. Introduction**

This chapterbegins with a statement of the problem which introduces the area of study and indicates why it is important. Prevalence data may be important for this section.

**2. Literature Review**

The discussion of the rationale for the topic area is followed by a comprehensive review of the literature related to the topic. The review has a logical organization **which culminates in a statement of the research hypothesis.** Subsection headings, if necessary, should be included in this section.

**2. Methodology**

In this chapter you describe in detail how the study was conducted. State the research design and methodology you have chosen to explore your thesis. If you are using a quantitative study, clearly state the independent and dependent variables. State why this methodology was chosen as the most appropriate for your question/thesis and any limitations it might have. Subsection headings must be used in this chapter.

**3. Results**

Thischapter describes what you did to test your hypothesis and what results you found. The structure of this section is highly flexible, and will depend much on the nature of your work. Whatever the format, the goal is one and the same: convince your reader that you have done what you set out to do in writing the thesis. Show all relevant evidence to support your position, and avoid weakening it with the mention of dead ends or blind alleys, unless they too are relevant to demonstrating that you answered the question. **Tables and figures should be incorporated into the text.** Tables and figures supplement the text and increase readability. The text should highlight the important information contained in the tables and figures. The text should also provide information that makes the tables and figures interpretable. All tables and figures must follow the Chicago style manual.

**4. Discussion**

Begin thischapter with a clear statement of the support or nonsupport of the original hypotheses. In this section, all results are evaluated and interpreted. There should be a discussion of the theoretical implications of the results, if any. The findings should also be discussed with respect to their implications for results of studies that were reported in the literature review. This would include a discussion of similarities and differences between the findings and those reported in previous research. Logical and or political implications of the findings can also be discussed. While limitations of the study may be discussed, this should be a very small section of this chapter. Not all studies have implications for future research. If there is an important methodological finding, an important discovery or an important implication for a new policy or program, this should be noted. This chapter may mention directions for future research. Otherwise, this topic does not need to be mentioned. The main focus of this chapter is to interpret, evaluate and consider the findings in relation to previous research. In some instances, interpretation can involve additional review of published research.

**5. Conclusion**

The discussion chapter should end with a conclusion section. This provides a brief overview of the hypotheses, findings and main conclusions of the study. A subsection heading must be included for the conclusion section..

**E. Bibliography**

The style for references should follow the APSA guidelines and must be consistent throughout the manuscript.

**V FORMAT**

**Length**

The Thesis is to be a minimum of 50 pages (double spaced).

**Style Manual, Citations**

Theses should conform to the APSA Style Manual which can be found online at: <http://www.ipsonet.org/data/files/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>. The APSA generally follows the Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style. All references cited in the text should be in the bibliography in alphabetical order. The easiest way to make your bibliography is through RefWorks, a web-based bibliography program that puts all your references in the proper format and allows easy on-line access. You can request a tutorial in using RefWorks from any of the reference librarians.

**Embedded Fonts**

Manuscripts must be created using embedded fonts since documents printed from the digital files can lose all punctuation and formatting.

**Adobe PDF**

Manuscripts must be saved and sent as PDF files. Files should not be password protected, compressed, or contain a digital signature.

**Margins**

The following margin specifications apply to all text (except page numbers) including figures, headers/footers, footnotes, images, etc: 1.5 inches for left margin, 1 inch for right margin and 1 inch for top and bottom margins. Page numbers must appear within .75 inches from the edge of the page but do not need to appear within the margins of the manuscript.

**Fonts**

Any legible font except script, italic, or ornamental fonts equivalent in scale to 10pt. Arial and 12pt Times New Roman are acceptable. Italics may be used for non-English words and quotations. These specifications apply to all text including captions, footnotes/endnotes, citations, etc. Bold is not used for text.

**Line spacing**

Double-spacing is required for the body of the manuscript as well as for the abstract, dedication, acknowledgements and table of contents, with the following exceptions: quotations as paragraphs, captions, items in tables, lists, graphs, and charts should be single-spaced. Footnotes/endnotes, bibliographic entries and lists in appendices should also be single-spaced.

**Color**

Black and white is preferred for paper submissions. Microfilm and print reproductions will not preserve color and may compromise legibility. Data and information that is color-coded or based on color/shading may not be interpretable. Color photographs may be reprinted in black and white by a professional lab for best results.

**Multimedia Files and Formats**

The following list describes what files and formats are acceptable for image, video, and audio files. **a**. Images: GIF (.gif); JPEG (.jpeg); TIFF (.tif) **b**. Video: Apple Quick Time (.mov); Microsoft Audio Video Interleaved (.avi); MPEG (.mpg) **c**. Audio: AIF (.aif); CD-DA; CD-ROM/XA; MIDI (.midi); MPEG-2; SND (.snd); WAV (.wav)

**Page Numbering**

Pagination for the preliminary pages (table of contents, acknowledgements, etc.) are to be numbered consecutively in small Roman numeral; all other pages (including bibliography, and appendices) are to be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals in the upper right hand corner. The title page counts as the first page. **However, no number should be typed on the page**. Note that there should **not** be a running head. This is only used for papers submitted for publication.

**All other formatting must follow the ProQuest Thesis specifications (please obtain a copy of these from the librarian, Jane Bambrick).**

**VII THE THESIS ADVISOR AND FINAL APPROVAL**

Subject content and appropriate supervision of all aspects of the thesis process are the responsibility of the Thesis Advisor (see below). The Thesis Advisor will approve the final clean, corrected copy of the thesis only if style, form and content standards have been met and the thesis conforms to the guidelines specified in the Thesis Handbook. The Graduate Director will approve the thesis once it is approved by the Thesis Committee. **The student is responsible for obtaining the signatures of the committee members on the Thesis Certification Form (see Appendix I) and delivering the signed Certification form to the Graduate Director.** The Library’s Thesis Coordinator, Jane Bambrick, will only approve documents that have been approved by the Graduate Director of the department. The final thesis must conform to the **ProQuest** requirements. To submit the final thesis for submission to ProQuest, each student must schedule a meeting with the Library Thesis Coordinator, Jane Bambrick. Students should come prepared with their thesis in electronic format (saved on a disc or flash drive), and a credit card to pay the Proquest Fee. Once these requirements are met, the Library Coordinator notifies the Graduate Director and Chairperson. **This notification is required for clearance for graduation.**

**Final Copies**

**One print copy must be submitted to the Graduate Director in a secure plastic binder. All pages must fit in the binder.** Loose leaf notebooks or binders, clasp or pocket folders, or any other form of binding which may result in lost or loose pages are not acceptable **In addition, an electronic copy must be sent to the Graduate Director.** The final copy of the paper should not contain any typographical or other errors. No corrections can be made in ink or pencil and use of white correction fluid is not permitted. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the return of the paper for further corrections. The print copy must include a title and signature page which will be signed by the Thesis Committee. **A copy of the signature page is found in Appendix I. It can also be obtained from the Graduate Director.** Students must also submit a digital copy to the Thesis Coordinator in the Library.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Signatures MUST NOT be included on signature pages of theses submitted for digital publishing.** The exclusion of signatures prevents the release of digital signatures.

**APPENDIX I**

**CERTIFICATION FORMS**

* Thesis Proposal Certification Form [Internal Departmental Use Only]
* Thesis Certification Form [Internal Departmental Use Only]
* Thesis Signature Page

**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**

**PROGRAM IN PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Thesis Proposal Approval Form**

We , the undersigned, certify that the following student is approved to register for POL 703, Thesis Writing II.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student I.D. # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Semester \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Advisor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(type or print) (sign) (date)

Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(type or print) (sign) (date)

Committee Member \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Graduate Program \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Director (type or print) (sign) (date)

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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### *For Department Use Only*: Check here if IRB review needed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Attach Thesis Proposal to this Form)

**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Certification of Degree**

**[Internal Use Only]**

We, the undersigned, have read this Masters Thesis and certify that it is adequate in scope and quality to meet the standards for a Masters Degree in Public Policy and International Affairs.

**Name of Student** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Major Adviser:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Second Reader’s Evaluation**:

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Third Reader’s Evaluation**

Third Reader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Signature Date

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**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Certification of Degree**

***We, the undersigned, have read this Master’s Thesis and certify that it meets the standards for a Masters of Arts Degree in Public Policy and International Affairs.***

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Signature Date

Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Signature Date

Third Reader: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix II**

**Sample Pages**

Title Page

Abstract

Sample Title Page

# FORMALIZING POOR PEOPLE’S MOVEMENTS: STRATEGY, POWER, AND THE ORGANIZER IN ACORN’S LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGNS

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Political Science

of the William Paterson University of New Jersey

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts in Public Policy and International Affairs

by

Thomas Santilli

May 2005

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ABSTRACT

Sample Abstract Page

Piven and Cloward, in their analysis of poor people’s movements, de-emphasize the role of formal organization and the organizer in the emergence, development, and impact of disruptive protest. However, in the last 35 years the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) has developed a national network of poor people’s organizations that work within political institutions, but maintain the use of disruption as a protest tactic. This study aims to examine the impact of formal organization on the processes of poor people’s movements in light of, by Piven and Cloward’s own admission, ACORN’s exceptional growth and accomplishment. I propose that formalization can affect poor people’s movements by employing an organizer as a “social reconstructionist,” allowing tactical choice when interacting in the political environment, and, by adopting long-term electoral strategies that aim to build power and transform institutions. I illuminate these concepts using ACORN’s living wage campaigns as case studies.

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