**M.A. Synopsis Paper Evaluation (Non-Thesis Track)**

Date: Student Name:

Title of Paper:

Name of Exam Board Member:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Does the student’s paper meet expectations?**  **The paper:** | **Does Not Meet Expectations** | **Meets Expectations** | **Exemplary** |
| Synthesizes the central debates among political scientists pertinent to the paper topic. |  |  |  |
| Evaluates the strengths and limitations of the central analytical approaches used by political scientists to address the paper topic. |  |  |  |
| In analysis of existing literature and presentation of paper argument, uses salient political science concepts. |  |  |  |
| Identifies the contributions of the paper to the relevant literature in Political Science. |  |  |  |
| Identifies the substantive importance of the paper, 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 paper’s 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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Exam Board Member Signature Date