

Senior Thesis Rubric, Colorado College Classics Dept.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
1. Scope/Dealing with Complexity in Framing a Topic	frames topic/complex questions as simple ones	invests topic/question with some complexity, may over-simplify or over-extend	reasonable balance between focus and complexity	frames the topic with a full appreciation of its complexity while retaining appropriate focus
2. Approach/ Methodology	not clear what was done or why, or an inappropriate method	approach is generally appropriate and properly executed	clearly described and justified, well-chosen and appropriate, and well-executed	creative and sophisticated methods
3. Scholarly Context	does not demonstrate awareness of the scholarly literature, may over-rely on too few sources	demonstrates a reasonable awareness of the literature	demonstrates broad awareness and situates own work within the literature	situates the work and makes a contribution to the field, or identifies a new direction for investigation
4. Argument	weak, invalid, or no argument, perhaps a simple assertion	some arguments valid and well supported, some not	main arguments valid, systematic, and well supported	arguments both well supported and situated beside other scholarly explanations
5. Use of Evidence	draws on little or no evidence, mostly relies on assertions or opinions, or evidence not clearly presented	some appropriate use of evidence but uneven	feasible evidence appropriately selected and not over-interpreted	fully exploits the richness of the evidence/ideas, and is sufficiently persuasive
6. Insight, Seeing Patterns and Connections	treats related ideas or data as unrelated, or draws weak or simplistic connections	begins to establish connections and perceive implications of the material	brings together related data or ideas in productive ways, thoroughly discusses implications of material	develops insightful connections and patterns that require intellectual creativity

7. Close reading of ancient texts	little or no evidence of close reading	demonstrates basic knowledge of text and some interpretation	shows clear interpretation of text and well-chosen selections	provides original, creative and sophisticated reading of selected text
Writing Mechanics				
8. organization	needs significant reorganization	structure is of inconsistent quality, may have choppy transitions and/or redundancies or disconnections	structure supports the argument, clearly ordered sections fit together well	structure enhances the argument, strong sections and seamless flow
9. clarity, style, readability	gets in the way of reading for content	beginning to be comfortable with appropriate conventions, style is inconsistent or uneven	effective prose style, follows relevant scholarly conventions, emergence of voice	elegant style, established voice
10. translation of ancient text	Passages are un-translated and/or do not reflect the contents of the ancient text being discussed	translations are inconsistent, capturing elements of the ancient text, without reflecting linguistic and thematic nuances	translations provide a decent reflection of the ancient text, though may have some lack of clarity or fail to capture the entire sense of the ancient text	translations are smooth and accurately reflect the ancient text, illuminating nuances of the ancient language