Political Science 4610 – Senior Thesis in Political Science
ASSIGNMENT: Proposal (15%)

Due Friday, October 5, 12:00PM by e-mail (mag@cpp.edu)
No late assignments will be accepted

Exchange Session (10%): A full draft is due in class on Tuesday, October 2

Automatic 5% deduction if:
1. You fail to bring in a hard copy of the proposal draft to class on Monday 10/2
2. You fail to email me a digital copy of the proposal draft to me on Friday 10/5 by 12:00PM

Parameters:
- 2 - 3 pages
- Double-spaced. **No single-spaced papers please.**
- 12-point, Times New Roman font
- File must be in .doc or .docx format
- This assignment should be in formal academic writing.

In the proposal, you will be writing the building blocks of what will morph into your introduction of the final senior thesis paper. In this assignment, introduce your topic, explain your question, and outline your argument. This is a very early draft of the first few pages of the thesis and will change dramatically as you move through the process.

An introduction will typically address (but not all items required):

1. What is your topic? Why is this important? What subfield investigates these kinds of issues?
2. What is your research question?
   a. Why do you think your research question will contribute to the literature?
   b. Why Is this important to study?
3. What is your argument?
   a. What logic leads you to believe this is true?
   b. Do you anticipate that there are other valid answers to your question? How else might you conceptualize the argument? **Get in the habit of anticipating competing ideas and disabling them to make your argument stronger.**
4. *Briefly* propose a valid research design that may be used to test this argument. Be as detailed as possible, but in most introductions, the research design is covered in a few sentences in the introduction. (e.g., To provide evidence for this argument I will utilize case studies of 5 Latin American countries that have experienced a democratic uprising in the last 15 years).