**White Papers in the Program in International Studies**

White papers in the Program in International Studies are documents demonstrating the breadth of one’s analysis of an issue. They are designed to show people how a proposed solution to a problem stacks up against other approaches. They differ from position papers in that their main purpose is to justify a position rather than simply state it, and differ from a policy paper in terms of breadth. A commonality with the other types of papers is an emphasis on succinctness.

At its core, a white paper has three main components, each a proscribed length; these are complemented by three other components. The main three:

1. **Overview, History and Definition of the Issue**, laying out the reasons why an issue must be dealt with. This is limited to 1.5 pages, or 36 lines of text.
2. **Possible Solutions**, with the caveat that each be something rational and implementable, with each one allotted no more than .75 of a page, or 18 lines of text.
3. **Recommended solution**, wherein you advocate for a particular approach to the issue. You are not limited to a single item from section two, and can propose several or a combination of several – but this should be done with an eye to what is rational and implementable. You are limited to no more than 1.5 pages (36 lines).

The additional components:

1. **An Abstract** of the entire paper, which comes first in the paper but is generally written last because it must include detail from the three main sections. It is included only with the final version of the paper, and is limited to 150 words.

2) **Appendices**, which complement and/or expand upon certain concepts in the body of the

text. These are referred to in the text but placed between the concluding section and the

additional works consulted page.

3) **Additional Works Consulted** page, which provides a list of sources which proved

particularly helpful in helping inform the author generally but which were not cited.

You’ll note that while each of the main components has a proscribed length, the number of possible solutions and inclusion of appendices, charts, and/or graphs can shift the overall length significantly. It is equally possible to produce a terrific eight page white paper and a weak fifteen page paper.

Some format/style notes:

\* White papers in the Program in International Studies are written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced with one inch margins all around. \* Papers must be cited using footnotes. Provide the full citation of a source the first time you use it, including (where appropriate) the page number(s) from which you drew the information. Subsequent citations of the same source will be abbreviated. Web-based sources should include the hyperlink directly thereto (examples of all of these available upon request). \* For an A, papers must be written in active voice (examples available upon request); passive voice can still net an A-.