

# Guidelines for Thesis Proposal

**Due:** 15 May. Those who fail to submit a proposal by this date will be required to transfer into the course-work, research- or creative-project option.

**Length:** 750-1000 words.

**Purpose:** To describe your proposed thesis, the context of your research, and the methodology that you will be employing.

**Audience:** The Graduate Studies Committee (all professors involved in graduate teaching) reviews all proposals. Keep in mind that not all members of the committee will necessarily be familiar with the topic of your thesis.

**Keys to a successful proposal:** It should be clearly written and well organized; be specific, both in reference to the texts you'll be discussing and in citing critics and theorists; proofread the proposal.

**Structure:** Your thesis proposal should include the following:

1. **Problem:** What is the problem that your thesis is intended to address? Clearly outline your intended argument and include a thesis statement.
2. **Background:** Briefly articulate how your thesis will contribute to scholarship on your topic – what gaps in scholarship are you trying to fill? Provide a survey of the existing scholarship of relevance to your topic (i.e. scholarship directly on the author/text being discussed, and more general scholarship related to the topic).
3. **Methods:** Describe your methodology – what theoretical approaches will you be utilizing? How exactly will you be utilizing these approaches? What type of research will you be conducting?
4. **Chapter Breakdown:** Briefly describe the structure of your thesis, and give a rough idea of the content of each chapter.
5. **Works Cited:** Include all the works cited in your proposal.
6. **Bibliography:** List any additional works, not cited in your proposal, which you may be using in your thesis.

**Note:** You should have arranged for a supervisor before beginning work on this proposal, and should consult extensively with your supervisor in developing your proposal. You may not submit a proposal without the agreement of a potential supervisor.

**Students are required to submit to the Graduate Coordinator a hard copy of the proposal accompanied by the Thesis proposal form, and an electronic copy of the proposal.**