

THESIS PROSPOSAL WORKSHOP

Spring 2008

LSHV 497- 01

Tuesdays: Jan. 15, Feb.12,

Juliet Antunes Sablosky

Mar.11, Apr.15

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6:30-8:30 p.m.

Objective: To prepare and submit a proposal which will set the basis for the research and writing of a successful thesis.

Required Texts:

Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. 7th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Strunk, William Jr. and E. B. White. The Elements of Style. 4th ed. New York:Longman, 2000.

Other:

Students are required to attend all four sessions of the workshop and to complete the assignments listed below. In addition, please review one or two completed MALS theses in the Library before our last class.

SCHEDULE

Session 1

Introductions - Review of Thesis Proposal Form

Research tools

Selecting a topic/Turning a topic into a research question

Finding a mentor

Reviewing the literature

Session 2

Refining the Question

Deciding on Methodology

Identifying sub-problems

Class presentation of topics

Session 3 [Meet at the Library - Dubin Classroom - 1st floor]

Library research briefing

Bibliographic forms

Developing a timetable

Session 4

Organizing and writing the thesis

What makes for success? – Discussion of completed theses

Manuscript preparation - Endnotes/footnotes

Review of Thesis Guidelines

ASSIGNMENTS

FOR:

Session 1- Bring to class an essay of about 200 words on your "Research Qualifications," explaining how your education, experience, background, and prior research have prepared you for the topic you intend to pursue. **Note:** This is not the thesis proposal, but rather an analysis of your qualifications to pursue the subject in which you are interested. Be prepared to make a brief oral presentation based on your essay and your preliminary ideas about a topic.

Session 2 - Read *Turabian* Chapters 1 and 2.

Bring to class a draft statement of the problem you will investigate and the name, phone number, and e-mail address of your mentor.

Session 3 - Read *Turabian* Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

In discussion with your mentor, amplify the research question, determine the methodology you will use, and discuss a schedule of writing deadlines and meetings to review progress on the thesis.

Bring to class a draft of the complete thesis proposal - Title, Problem, Review of Literature, Procedure, Contents, Timetable and Bibliography.

Session 4 - Read *Turabian* Chapters 6, 7 and 8 with special attention to pp.73-81 on paraphrasing and inadvertent plagiarism

Clear a final draft of the thesis proposal with your mentor.

****Bring to class the final draft of the thesis proposal in the required format.**

NEXT STEPS

1. I will review the final drafts and e-mail individual comments. Once I have cleared your draft, please put the proposal into final format. Be especially careful to use the proper bibliographic forms given in the Turabian Manual.
2. Have your mentor sign the "Thesis Proposal Approval Form" and attach it to **three** copies of the proposal.
3. Leave the packet in an envelope addressed to me c/o Mrs. Ridder in the Liberal Studies Office **no later than Wednesday April 30.**

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.