

THESIS WORKSHOP

Thursdays, 6:00-7:50pm
Spring 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is for those who have chosen the GPIA research option to write a master's thesis. It is presumed that students have taken Research Methods already. This workshop is designed to help students refine their thesis topic, organization, method, and argument. Students should note, though, that this Thesis Workshop is not substitute for consultations with their Thesis Supervisor. He or she will help the student finalize details of the thesis. (Please see reminder below.)

Only Course Requirement: Voluntary presentation of thesis progress in class as well as constructive critiques of others' presentations.

The following readings can help with the writing your thesis:

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

William Strunk Jr., E.B. White and Maira Kalman. 2007. *The Elements of Style Illustrated*. New York: Penguin.

The *Chicago Manual of Style* (15th Edition) is recommended for all as a standard reference work. (I believe it is available on-line.)

Summary Notes of *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article* by Howard S. Becker (<http://www.brint.com/papers/writing.htm>)

REMINDER

Registration for Thesis Supervision is done with the Full Time Faculty member who will serve as your first reader. The registration requires approval. Approval is gained by turning in a signed (by your first reader) thesis registration form, which can be found at the following URL: http://gpia.info/files/u17/thesis_registration.pdf

The process is described in the GPIA Student Handbook:

”In the semester following the Thesis Workshop, students register for Thesis Supervision under the name of their thesis supervisor. In order to get permission to register for Thesis Supervision, students must deposit a Thesis Registration Form with the department secretary prior to the registration period for the semester in which Thesis Supervision will be taken. Thesis Supervision carries three credits. By the beginning of Thesis Supervision, students submit their finished proposal to their committee. The student then conducts the agreed-upon research independently and writes the thesis, working with the advice and guidance of their supervisor.”

If you have any questions please contact your Thesis Workshop instructor or Phil Akre.

COURSE OUTLINE

28 January: Introduction: What’s a (Master’s) Thesis?

I. Literature Review

What’s my topic?
What do others say about it?
Do I agree/disagree? Why?
How does my approach extend/differ from theirs?
Why is this important?

4 February: Student Presentations

11 February: Student Presentations

18 February: [No Class]

25 February: Student Presentations

II. Statement of the Research Problem

What’s the problem that this thesis will address?
Why is it important?
What’s my Method/Methodology?

4 March: Student Presentations

11 March: Student Presentations

SPRING BREAK

25 March: Student Presentations

1 April: Student Presentations

III. Research Strategy

How will I study this problem?

What's my evidence?

How is it relevant/appropriate?

What's my access to this evidence?

How will I present my research/findings/argument?

8 April: Student Presentations

15 April: Student Presentations

22 April: Student Presentations

29 April: Student Presentations

IV. Conclusion

What's my Conclusion?
What are the Implications of my conclusion?
In other words: So What?

6 May: Student Presentations
13 May: Student Presentations