

**Thesis Research Proposal**

**MAIS with concentration in Anthropology**

**(last revised 5.3.2021)**

***Purpose:***

The thesis proposal should define a worthy and manageable research project for both the student and the student’s thesis committee chair. The research project proposed should make a valuable and original contribution to the literature on the subject of the study. Additionally, the proposed project should be realistically viable given constraints on time, student preparation, faculty specializations, access to the necessary research resources, etc. In short, the proposal should demonstrate that the project is *worth doing* and *can be done* in an appropriate amount of time. In this regard a thesis proposal performs the same function as a grant application, serving both as a justification for the work and a feasibility study.

***Contents:***

A thesis proposal must include: (all text is double spaced, 12-point font)

1. An abstract (1 page)

1. The project proposal (3-5 pages)

1. A chapter outline (1-2 pages)

1. An annotated bibliography (3-5 pages).
2. If needed, but required for research involving human subjects, verification of CITI training for human subjects research and IRB protocol approval status. (1 page)

*The Abstract*: The abstract is a succinct summary, running no more than a single page, which clearly defines the research question the thesis will address and explains how the student will answer the research question.

*The Project Proposal*: The critical section of the prospectus, in the proposal section the student defines the research question, postulates a coherent thesis statement, and places the proposed research project in an anthropological context. This discussion should make clear how the proposed thesis will make a valuable contribution to the literature on this topic. Additionally, in this section the student explains the methodology that will be used in the study, including a detailed discussion of the data collection methods and, if appropriate, study participants. This section should run no longer than five pages.

*Chapter Outline*: This section explains how the student will organize and present the material incorporated into the thesis.

*Annotated Bibliography*: The proposal includes a list of the major works relevant to the thesis project. For each source include a complete, accurate citation, a three- sentence summary, and 1-2 sentences explaining how the source will contribute to the research project. The annotated bibliography is normally started before the project proposal is finalized. It provides the scholarly foundation justifying the proposed research.

Only for research involving living human beings: *CITI Training and IRB Protocol submission status*. Research projects involving humans need prior approval by the UTRGV IRB. This process takes time and needs to be considered when designing a project and developing a feasible timeline. This section of the prospectus should clearly lay out your status related to your training (required for all researchers and for protocol submission) and protocol submission. This section should be about one page.

Approved by Anthropology Faculty 4.26.2021