

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadlines for Proposals:**

- All proposals for a final project to be completed during the fall term are due no later than April 15.
- All proposals for a final project to be completed during the spring term are due no later than November 15.
- All proposal for a final project to be completed during the summer term are due no later than April 1.

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I. Provisional Title

*This is a working title for your thesis which you are free to change later.*

II. Thesis Topic

*What will be the focus of your thesis? What primary source(s) will be the object of your analysis? (Be sure to note the scope of your investigation.)*

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***Please additionally append the following information to your proposal:***

III. Thesis Rationale

*What major issues and/or questions do you intend to explore? Why are these issues/questions important? Why is this an original, interesting and/or timely topic to pursue? (This section asks for an explanation of your research question and argument—it does not ask “what your thesis is about.”)*

IV. Literature Review/Background

*What work has already been done on your topic? What are some of the critical texts written by other scholars in this area? How will your work complement, advance and/or challenge existing scholarship on this topic?*

V. Methodological Approach

*How will you go about investigating/proving your argument? What kinds of secondary sources will you need to consult in the process?*

VI. Annotated Bibliography (preliminary)

*This should be a list of relevant primary sources and at least five secondary sources you plan to consult with brief narrative descriptions of each. Annotations are brief summaries that also address the significance of the work to your own project. Formatting for the bibliography should be consistent with guidelines established by either the MLA or Chicago manual of style.*

VII. Thesis Approval

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**Thesis Advisor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Advisor's Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Possible Second Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Major Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit for approval to [Scott Gac](#), Director, American Studies Graduate Program

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_