

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, PH.D. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM

A Ph.D. Dissertation in English is based upon original investigation. It must demonstrate mature scholarship and critical judgment on the part of the candidate, familiarity with tools and methods of research relevant to the topic and its objectives, and a clear and informed sense of the academic field to which the project of study makes a contribution. The length of the dissertation is typically between 200-400 pages. The result is the basis for potential publication, whether in the form of articles, book chapters, or a monograph.

The Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal is to be developed with the Supervisor and members of the Advisory Committee. It is to be submitted to the Graduate Chair no later than **1 May** of the second year of the Ph.D. degree. A Proposal Presentation will take place no later than **15 May**, and the final version of the proposal—approved by the Advisory Committee as a whole—will be submitted along with this completed Ph.D. Dissertation Proposal form to the Graduate Chair for review by **31 May**. The proposal typically comprises a 6-8 page overview of the research project and a 4-6 page bibliography.

Approval of the proposal does not bind the student to a given approach, nor does it cement the scope of the dissertation unyieldingly. The final organization, argument, and conclusions of the project are the Ph.D. Candidate's responsibility, in consultation with the Supervisor and the Advisory Committee. If the approved subject is abandoned, a new proposal must be submitted.

- **Identifying Information**

Name of Student:

Name of Supervisor:

Date Proposal Submitted to Graduate Chair:

Working Title:



The ECC has agreed in principle that the working titles of all approved proposals will be added to the Department of English web page. Your permission is granted ____ OR not granted ____.

- **Concise Statement of Research Objectives** *(150-250 words)*

- **Supervisor's Comments** *(Indicate the potential value of the project and its feasibility, the latter based on such factors as the scope of the project, the availability of resources, and the student's preparedness for the research.)*

Signature of Supervisor:

- **Dissertation Proposal**
On the pages that follow, provide a description of your research project, indicating the material to be studied, the issue(s) to be addressed, the research questions that structure the paper, and the methods and/or analytical framework that will be used. The proposed plan or organization of the dissertation—i.e. the focus and sequence of chapters—should be provided as well as a sense of the anticipated contributions or stakes of the project. Please provide also a working bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

