

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, M.A. THESIS PROPOSAL FORM

A Master's Thesis is a focused research project capable of being completed within the two years of the degree program. It should be approximately 80-100 pages (24,000 – 30,000 words), including Works Cited and Consulted. As an original study supported by a clear methodological and critical framework, the thesis is an opportunity to explore a topic, texts, and research questions in an informed way.

The M.A. Thesis Proposal is to be developed with the Supervisor and submitted with the completed M.A. Thesis Proposal form to the Graduate Chair for review by **31 May** of the first year of the M.A. Thesis degree. As an attachment to this form, the proposal should provide a 2-3 page overview of the research project and a 1-2 page bibliography.

Approval of the proposal does not bind the student to a given approach, nor does it cement the scope of the thesis unyieldingly. The final organization, argument, and conclusions of the thesis are the candidate's responsibility, in consultation with the Supervisor. 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:

- **M.A. Thesis Proposal**
Provide a 2-3 page description of your research project, indicating the material under consideration and the rationale behind your choice of texts; the issue(s) and features of the material that you will investigate, as aligned with your research questions; the approach, methods, and/or analytical framework that will be used; a sense of the project's organization in relation to chapters; and the stakes of the project or the anticipated scholarly contribution arising from your approach. Please provide also a working bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

