



## **Texts/Readings**

Turabian, K. 2007. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers - Seventh Edition.* University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

SJSU Thesis Guidelines.pdf. from: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/thesis/>

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

The primary assignment for this course is a complete thesis proposal approved by your full thesis committee. We will be working through each step in the proposal writing process together in class and will address individual sections of the proposal through separate assignments and exercises. Because this course is based on one main goal (**completion of a signed thesis proposal**) your grade in the class will be task oriented. If you are able to complete your proposal and get it signed by your thesis committee chair within the timeframe of the semester you will automatically receive an “A” in the class, if your proposal is signed by your full committee you will receive an “A+,” if you are not able to get your proposal signed your grade will be based on points earned. Points will be earned through successful completion of the following assignments:

### Final Complete Proposal

*Front Pages (Carefully follow instructions, including pagination, from graduate studies guidelines).*

- Title Page (title is no more than 80 characters, including spaces and punctuation)
- Thesis Committee Page
- Abstract (one double spaced page maximum)
- Table of Contents (by 1a62 368.7P4.86)

journal research papers or other primary sources in your field. Internet-only sources should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Thesis Proposal Segment Drafts – Prior to the submission of the complete thesis proposal, the following sections will be reviewed as separate documents. See syllabus for due dates for each section – not necessarily in the same order as below.

*Motivation/Scope*

In this section you will build the groundwork for the rest of your thesis proposal. Begin by addressing the question, what enviro

### Article Presentation

You will present one peer reviewed journal article directly related to your thesis/project topic during class time. Choose an article that you find interesting enough that you will be able to lead a lengthy discussion focused on it. The a **high quality** copy (digital or hard copy) of the full article will be made available to all class members one week before the scheduled presentation date. Presentations should include a summary of the article, a critique, and a discussion (approximately 30-45 minutes total). In addition, you should come prepared with a list of discussion topics/questions to create dialog in class.

### Proposal Defense

Each student will present their thesis research proposal to the class including all aspects of their proposal **including their proposed methods**. You should plan on 30 minutes for your presentation and 15 minutes for critique. The presentations should be professional in style and quality.

### Class Participation

#### *Attendance*

You are required to attend every class meeting unless you are ill or have an emergency. If you need to miss class for either of these reasons e-mail me as promptly as possible especially if you are expected to present that week.

#### *Peer Reviews*

Participation in the review of fellow students is an essential part of this course and is required. Reviews are expected to be critical, substantive, and productive.

#### *Participation in discussions*

Participation does not mean being verbose. In many cases allowing or encouraging others to speak is more valuable to the group dynamic. Providing the group your insights in an engaging and respectful manner is appreciated. Statements are always more interesting if they are backed up by logic and evidence.

#### *Presentations*

As a presenter it is your job to make your subject informative and entertaining. Please be professional and creative!

#### *Respect and decorum*

### Assignment Values

| Assignments                                  | Points |
|--|--------|
| Final Complete Proposal                      | 20     |
| <i>Motivation and Scope</i>                  | 5      |
| <i>Related Research</i>                      | 10     |
| <i>Problem Statement</i>                     | 5      |
| <i>Objectives, Questions, and Hypotheses</i> | 5      |
| <i>Budget, Timeline, and CV</i>              | 5      |
| <i>Methods</i>                               | 5      |
| Article Presentations                        | 10     |
| Proposal Defense                             | 20     |
| Participation                                | 15     |
| Total  | 100    |

### Grading Rubric

| Level of Completion | Grade |
|---------------------|-------|
|---------------------|-------|





! "#\$%&' " (&)\*+, (-.%\* (' " (&\$/)0&12."34)0\$ ()5\*3")0&\$&")6 (. - "%3.&7)  
8\$3&"%93): ; "3.3)<%\*#\*3\$/)=##%\*-\$/)> \*%' )