

Research Tutorial and Thesis Proposal Guidelines

(ARTH 820)

After the completion of their seminars, all students undertake the Research Tutorial / *Atelier de Recherche*, an intensive course of study guided by their supervisor. The tutorial is aimed at producing a thesis proposal. This is a 15-20 pages document, double spaced, plus an annotated bibliography.

Because of the unique character of every dissertation, both the content and format of the thesis proposal will vary from student to student, and candidates should consult closely with their supervisors in order to construct a proposal that will best meet the exigencies of their research.

Regardless of the chosen organizational structure, the content of all proposals must address each of the following requirements:

- An introduction to your central research topic, and core question(s):
What is your central subject? And what question(s) will your thesis seek to answer about it? 3-4 pp
- A statement of the significance/urgency of this project:
Why is it important to undertake this study? 3-4 pp
- A discussion of your methodology, including research methods and theoretical framework:
How do you plan to approach your thesis work? 3-4 pp
- A discussion of the intellectual context for your project, including how existing scholarship supports or relates to your work
What prior research has helped you in your own thinking, or needs revision in the way that you propose? 3-4 pp
- A description of your corpus
What is the body of material you will be focusing on: which artworks, artefacts, archival materials, etc.? 3-4 pp

Appendix I

A thesis completion schedule that includes your timeline for completing your comprehensive exams, fieldwork, and your schedule for writing and defending the thesis as per the [requirements of Concordia's Thesis Office](#). When will all the required steps take place, as best you can anticipate them at this time?

Appendix II

A comprehensive bibliography of sources you plan to use -- including annotations on the twenty (20) most significant sources for your research, and standard bibliographic references for the remaining sources. Primary and secondary sources should be clearly distinguished. The annotations and bibliography are not included in the 15–20-page limit.

Appendix III

Students should curate a focused set of 3–5 key artworks or visual documents that directly relate to the central arguments of their thesis proposal. The selection should exemplify the range, chronology, and/or thematic variation relevant to their main research questions. For each selected item, include a briefs caption (title, creator, date, medium, and provenance).

Once the supervisor has approved the thesis proposal, it is circulated to the other members of the student's advisory committee and serves as the basis for the comprehensive examinations. Supervisors may circulate a draft document to the advisory committee and invite comments or feedback. In this case the supervisor would also circulate a finalized version of the proposal prior to the examinations.

The Research Tutorial is graded as Pass or Fail (P/F), as determined by the supervisor, and communicated to the Department Assistant who will complete a grade report form (P-F).