

SM8407: THESIS PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Thesis Proposal Development

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

8407

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course will enable beginning doctoral students to craft a solid thesis proposal in preparation for writing their thesis. Students will be introduced to the rationale of the thesis proposal and will receive step by step guidance on composing each

of its elements and unifying the whole. Students will review salient theses and thesis proposals in their field. They will then compose each part of the thesis in turn before integrating them into a unified proposal. The learning process in this course is iterative and collaborative. Each element of the student's proposal will be reviewed by the instructor and scrutinized by their peers in a shared classroom process. Each participant will learn from their peers as well as from the instructor to maximize learning outcomes.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Define research topic and goals		x	x	
2	Evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to knowledge		x	x	
3	Construct a methodology by specifying theories and methods and how they fit research topic and goals		x	x	
4	Explain criteria for evaluating research and what counts as success		x	x	
5	Outline a thesis structure and explain rationale for that structure.		x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Class Presentations	Weekly presentation and critique of developing research proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
2	Group Sharing	Weekly peer review of developing research proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	Teacher Review	Weekly teacher review of developing research proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
4	Class Discussion and Analysis	Weekly sharing and discussion of best practices	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Thesis Treatment	1	10	-	Yes
2	Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography	2	20	-	Yes
3	Methodology	3, 4	20	-	Yes
4	Chapter Breakdown	5	20	-	Yes
5	Final Proposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Thesis Treatment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to define coherent and achievable research topic and goals

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B, B-) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(D) Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to the field

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential to contribute to field

Good

(B+, B, B-) Effective with good potential to contribute to field

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderately effective with some potential to contribute to field

Marginal

(D) Minimally effective with little potential to contribute to field

Failure

(F) Lacking effectivity with no potential to contribute to field

Assessment Task

Methodology (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to develop a coherent research design where theory and method is correctly matched to research topic and goals

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B, B-) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(D) Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Chapter Breakdown (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to develop a coherent, complete, and achievable structure for the dissertation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B, B-) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(D) Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Final Proposal (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to produce complete statement of research design with sound research merit and feasibility

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B, B-) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(D) Minimally effective with little research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Thesis Treatment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to define coherent and achievable research topic and goals

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to evaluate existing research and articulate contribution to the field

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential to contribute to field

Good

(B+, B) Effective with good potential to contribute to field

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderately effective with some potential to contribute to field

Failure

(F) Lacking effectivity with no potential to contribute to field

Assessment Task

Methodology (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to develop a coherent research design where theory and method is correctly matched to research topic and goals

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Chapter Breakdown (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to develop a coherent, complete, and achievable structure for the dissertation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Lacking research merit and feasibility

Assessment Task

Final Proposal (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to produce complete statement of research design with sound research merit and feasibility

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Very effective with high potential research merit and feasibility

Good

(B+, B) Effective with good potential research merit and feasibility

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Failure

(F) Moderately effective with some potential research merit and feasibility

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Thesis Proposal, Writing a Thesis, Literature Review, Methodology, Chapter Breakdown.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Sample proposals to be selected by students in consultation with professor
2	Sample theses to be selected by students in consultation with professor

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil.