

Guidelines for Latina/o Studies Honors Thesis Proposals

- Prior to beginning your proposal in the spring of your junior year, you should identify the member of the Latina/o Studies faculty with whom you wish to work and meet with her/him to discuss your initial ideas.
- **Proposals are due to the program chair via e-mail by 12:00pm on the last day of spring semester classes.**

Content:

- Your proposal needs to answer the following questions:
 - **What?** (Your central topic – remember that focus is paramount, as this is a one-semester thesis)
 - **Where?** (Geographic area/areas)
 - **When?** (Time period)
 - **How?** (Methodology, or the tools you will use to answer your central questions. For example, will you be conducting close readings of certain films? Will your thesis include archival research? Will you attempt to answer some of your questions via participant observation? These are all potential methodologies). If you have trouble labeling or describing the approach(es) you wish to use, it is important that you discuss this issue with your thesis advisor.
 - **Why?** (What is the projected significance or contribution of your research? In other words: What sort of questions or issues will your research seek to elucidate?)
 - You should state whom you wish to work with as your principal thesis advisor, and confirm that you have spoken in advance with her/him about your topic.
- Your proposal also needs to incorporate the 2-3 clearly stated, well-structured questions that are guiding your proposed thesis project. These questions should be related, yet distinct. It is generally wise to avoid “yes or no” questions. Please keep in mind that the strength of your research hinges on the quality of these questions, so be thoughtful about this portion of your proposal.
- It is expected that you consult a minimum of *five sources* for your proposal. Unless previously discussed with your advisor, these cannot include Internet sources. You are, however, encouraged to reference sources from your previous Latina/o Studies coursework.
- Please attach a Works Cited/Bibliography page to your final proposal.

Format:

- The proposal itself should be approximately 4-5 pages long, maximum. It needs to be double-spaced, using default margins, 12 pt. font. Your name should appear on each page along with the page number.
- For the purposes of the proposal, follow the basic citation rules from LATS 105, i.e., include the author's last name followed by the page number (Oboler, 30).

Some additional words of advice:

- Keep in mind that your research topic and questions will shift as you gather more information and refine your topic. This is to be expected. However, completely switching your topic several times or significantly altering it as you advance in the research process is not advised.
- It *highly recommended* that you turn a draft copy of your proposal in to your thesis advisor in a timely fashion before the proposal due date, so that she/he can offer you feedback.