598 Final Project Proposal Information
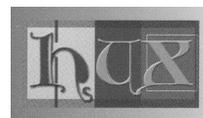
Purpose of the HUX 598 Course

HUX 598 is designed to help you prepare a formal proposal and plan for your final thesis or project. You will submit a copy of your formal proposal with your HUX 599 course contract. It then becomes your way to convince three professors to work with your thesis or project.

A HUX professor will have to agree to mentor your 598 course and guide your development of the formal thesis or project proposal before the course can begin. Why submit a proposal to develop a proposal? First, you need to have put some time and effort into your topic before the 598 course starts if you are to complete it by the end of the trimester. Second, in order to help you find the right faculty mentor we need to know your topic. Writing a quality Masters degree thesis is no small task. Most books and articles widely available do not provide good models for how to construct a graduate thesis or project. As a result, many HUX students need help formulating a topic that is properly focused and appropriate to the disciplines of the Humanities. The HUX Coordinator looks at all 598 proposals before sending them to faculty, and may ask you to revise your proposal before approaching potential mentors on your behalf. **If all points below are not addressed satisfactorily, the proposal will be returned.** The better conceived and complete the initial proposal, the more likely it is to be accepted by the first professor who sees it. Be sure to keep a copy of your proposal.

Regulations governing interviews of living persons are very strict. Before you can conduct interviews you must file a report with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) office on the CSUDH campus. See the enclosed brochure or get the online version at www.csudh.edu/RF/r&fpro3.html. Your mentor also needs to sign off on your methodology.

What You Need to Include With this HUX 598 Proposal

1. Brief description (one-half to one page) of your proposed project, including its central argument. Indicate as well on which discipline of the Humanities you are focusing (Curriculum B; Disciplinary track), or on which two disciplines you will focus (Curriculum A: Interdisciplinary track). Include also the theoretical methodology you intend to employ.
2. Preliminary outline of the thesis/project, presented in complete sentences (not bullet points).
3. Bibliography including at least five sources. Include: a) full bibliographic reference, b) a three-sentence synopsis of each source; and c) a summary of each source's value to your thesis. Your sources should be recent, and if possible should include at least one pertinent professional journal article.
4. If you have a mentor in mind, include the name of the professor who has agreed to mentor or look at your proposal, or the name of the mentor you want us to approach. Please note that we may have to send your proposal to a different mentor than the one you request for a variety of reasons (e.g. availability, expertise). Look at the faculty page on the HUX website for information about faculty expertise.

What You Will Produce by the End of the HUX 598 Course

Your mentor may have specific requirements for you in addition to those below, depending on the nature of your topic, discipline, and approach. Be sure to consult the *Guide to Research and Writing in the Humanities*, which can be accessed on the HUX website at http://www.csudh.edu/hux/finproj.html. Your mentor may want you to do things a bit differently than indicated in this guide, since each of the five Humanities disciplines has its own methods and approaches, but it's a good place for you to start.

1. First five pages of your thesis with notes, including (as determined in consultation with your mentor) your revised thesis statement/central argument, a review of the most recent scholarly literature related to your topic (or "state of research" section), and a description of how the work will accomplish its goals, including the theoretical model or models you will use in your analysis.
2. Final outline of your thesis/project.
3. Revised and expanded bibliography.