

Instructor: Terry Slocum
Phone: 864-5146 E-mail: t-slocum@ku.edu
Office: 215 or 207 Lindley
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00 PM, F 3:30-5 PM and by Appt.

Goals of the Course

The major goal of the course is to develop your ability to write an effective Master's thesis proposal. In addition, we will consider the development of other kinds of proposals (e.g., for grant funding) and issues related to professional development in the academic community (e.g., preparation of the curriculum vitae).

Students with Disabilities

The staff of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), 135 Strong, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU courses. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted them, please do so as soon as possible. Please also see me privately in regard to this course.

Academic Misconduct

Copying, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct at any time during the semester will not be tolerated. Please be aware that the University's policy on academic misconduct can be found in Article II, Section 6 of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. You can access the entire list of Senate Rules and Regulations at www.studenthandbook.ku.edu.

Grading

Your grade will be a function of the following:

- Master's thesis proposal (60%)
- Attendance and classroom participation (20%)
- Other assignments (20%)

Since Master's thesis proposals generally require revision before arriving at a satisfactory final product, I will ask you to submit drafts of your proposal twice during the semester (these dates will be a function of how quickly we move through the proposal development process). I will assign a tentative grade for your proposal based on these drafts, and then will assign a final grade for the proposal based on the final version, which will be due on Wednesday, May 14.

Blackboard

We will use Blackboard for some things in the class (e.g., e-mail, distributing copies of material that I provide, and having you evaluate one

another's proposals). You can access blackboard at <http://courseware.ku.edu/>.

Required Texts

Locke, Lawrence F., Spirduso, Waneen Wyrick, and Silverman, Stephen J. 2007. *Proposals that Work: A Guide for Planning Dissertations and Grant Proposals*. Fifth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Punch, Keith F. 2006. *Developing Effective Research Proposals*. Second Edition. London: SAGE Publications.

Some Potential Texts

Chapin, Paul G. 2004. *Research Projects and Research Proposals: A Guide for Scientists Seeking Funding*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gaytrell, Jay D., Bierly, Gregory D., and Jensen, Ryan R. 2005. *Research Design and Proposal Writing in Spatial Science*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

Glatthorn, Allan A., and Joyner, Randy L. 2005. *Writing the Winning Thesis or Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide*. Second Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Haring, L. Lloyd, Lounsbury, John F., Frazier, John W. 1992. *Introduction to Scientific Geographic Research*. Fourth Edition. Boston, MA: Wm. C. Brown.

Leedy, Paul D., and Ormrod, Jeanne Ellis. 2005. *Practical Research: Planning and Design*. Eighth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

Parsons, Tony, and Knight, Peter G. 2005. *How to Do your Dissertation in Geography and Related Disciplines*. Second Edition. London: Routledge.

Van Wagenen, R. Keith. 1991. *Writing a Thesis: Substance and Style*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Other Readings

These (and others) will be available via Blackboard.

Leedy and Ormrod (Chapter 1 from the book listed above; available at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/3238/page3-15.htm>).

Reis, Richard M. "Choosing a research topic", available at <http://chronicle.com/jobs/99/11/99111902c.htm>.

Topics to be Covered

I. Overview of the course

Punch, Chapters 1 and 2
Locke, Chapter 1, focusing on
pp. 11-16.

II. What is research and how do you develop research ideas (or topics)?	
What is research?	Leedy and Ormrod (web link)
What is geographic research?	
Quantitative vs. qualitative research	
Sources of research topics	
Questions to consider in choosing a topic	Reis
Selecting a topic	Punch, Chapters 3 and 7 Locke, Chapter 3 (41-54)
III. Reviewing the literature	Punch, Chapter 4 Locke, Chapter 4 (63-68)
IV. Methodological considerations	Punch, Chapter 5 (45-55) Locke, Chapter 4 (80-89)
V. Ethical Issues	Locke, Chapter 2 Punch, Chapter 5 (55-57)
VI. Writing the proposal	Punch, Chapter 6, Locke, Chapter 3 (55-61) Locke, Chapter 4 (68-79) Locke, Chapter 6
Functions of the proposal	
Consider what your advisor and department expect	
Basic elements of a proposal	
Stylistic issues	
VII. Qualitative proposals	Locke, Chapter 5
VIII. Selecting a thesis committee	
IX. Preparing for your oral exam (what role can the thesis proposal play?)	
X. Presenting the results of your research (oral presentations)	Locke, Chapter 7
XI. Writing the thesis	
College requirements	
Potential structures	
Examples of good theses	
Working with your advisor	
Working with your committee members	
XII. Grantsmanship	Locke, Chapters 8 and 9
Locating funds to support your Master's thesis research	
Writing a one-page proposal for funding your research	
General sources of grant funding in geography	
Writing proposals for grant funding in geography	

XIII. Professional development in geography

Resumes and curriculum vitae