



Descriptions of the contents of each chapter.

A preliminary bibliography. This means that the student should make herself or himself aware of most of the existing literature on their topics before completing their thesis proposals. The proposed bibliography may be expanded or condensed in the final thesis.

An approximate timetable for completing the various stages of work on the thesis (e.g., data collection, data analysis, first drafts of chapters, second drafts, filming, editing).

Ph.D. thesis proposals should be 15-20 pages long. Examples of previously approved thesis proposals are available in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies office. Keep in mind that Senior Supervisors vary in the amount and kind of detail they require for proposals; the Graduate Committee considers this variation a legitimate exercise of academic freedom.

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The thesis proposal should be developed in consultation with the Senior Supervisor at each step of the process, e.g., conceptualizing themes, developing bibliography, designing methods, writing drafts. Normally, the Ph.D. proposal is completed within two years of entering the Ph. D. program (if the student is a full-time student and has not taken extended leaves of absence). If the student does not prepare a proposal within the expected time, the reasons for this must be described in the student's annual review and approved by the Graduate Committee. When the Senior Supervisor and the student are both satisfied with the proposal, they should give it to the other supervisory committee member(s). Once the committee is in agreement that the proposal is ready to be defended, the Senior Supervisor will schedule a thesis proposal defense meeting. If the student wishes to take the proposal to a defense without the agreement of the senior supervisor, the supervisor and the student must inform the Graduate Chair and Graduate Program Committee, and the Graduate Chair will schedule the defense. For the Ph. D. thesis proposal, in addition to the student, the supervisory committee members, and the Chair of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Committee, the defense is open to department as a whole. NOTE: The thesis proposal must be submitted to the student's supervisory committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the defense date.

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The Graduate Chair normally chairs the thesis proposal defense. The Chair begins by asking the student to make a brief statement about the purpose of the proposed research (maximum of 10 minutes). The Chair then invites each supervisory committee member in turn to raise questions about the thesis proposal (maximum



3. It is the responsibility of the Senior Supervisor to prepare a letter summarizing these changes, including the date by which the changes are to be made and the process for their review, and to circulate it to members of the defense committee