South Dakota State UniversityDepartment of English

M.A. in English

# Critical Thesis Proposal Form

**Instructions for student: Please type the required information directly into the proposal form. The proposal should be eight to ten pages in length, not including the bibliography.**

Name: ID Number: Mailing Address: Phone Number: E-Mail Address:

M.A. Emphasis (Literature/Language & Rhetoric):

Thesis Director:

Additional Committee Members: **I. Title**

**Provide the anticipated title of the thesis. The title should be both specific and concise and should indicate the research you are undertaking.**

**II. The Argument**

**Identify the topic you will explore in your thesis and the position you will take on this topic, making sure to articulate a concise statement of your central argument. Describe the primary texts you’ll be using and explain how you intend to use them in order to support this argument. Be sure to provide any relevant literary or historical background on your topic. Briefly discuss the conclusions you hope to draw from your research and explain how your thesis will contribute to the field of study represented by your topic.**

**III. Review of Related Literature**

**Describe the secondary critical work that has been done on your topic thus far, noting particular trends in the existing scholarship. Describe in detail some of the secondary sources that will be particularly relevant to your thesis and explain how your work will fit into the critical conversation you’ve outlined.**

**IV. Methodology**

**Describe the theoretical approach(es) that will inform your work, as well as how you intend to apply them. Identify not only the theory or theories you’ll be using, but also particular theorists and theoretical texts. Be sure to name, explain, and/or define any theoretical concepts or terms you intend to employ.**

**V. Chapter Titles and Summaries**

**Outline the chapters that you will include in your thesis, including chapter titles and brief summaries.**

**VI. Bibliography**

**Provide a bibliography of the sources you intend to use in your thesis project.**

**VII. Thesis Committee Approvals**

**The student’s thesis committee, consisting of the thesis director and two additional English department faculty members, is responsible for the critical review of this proposal. All committee members must sign below to indicate their approval. In no instance may this section be completed before the completion of sections I-VI above.**

Thesis Director:

(Signature) (Date)

Committee Member:

(Signature) (Date)

Committee Member:

(Signature) (Date)

Graduate Faculty Representative:

(Signature) (Date)

**NOTE: After the committee has , please submit a clean copy of the proposal with the signatures of the committee included to the English department Graduate Coordinator.**