School of Human Sciences  
HUSC 5190 - Thesis Writing  
Fall 2023

Instructor: Rachel Jumper, Ph.D.  
Office: EDAN 129  
Office Hours: M 10am-Noon, Tu 9am-Noon  
Prerequisites: Permission from major professor & chair

Course Time & Location: Online  
Office Phone: (936) 468-2209  
Email: jumperr@sfasu.edu or through BRIGHTSPACE  
Credits: 3

I. Course Description:  
Writing of the thesis is the focus of this course.

A thesis is required for partial fulfillment of the MS in Human Sciences. The thesis reflects an original, scholarly contribution to the research literature relevant to human sciences. At a minimum, students will enroll in two consecutive semesters/terms for the thesis proposal/writing and the thesis oral defense which must be scheduled in two different semesters/terms. Students must register for at least one credit each fall/spring semester and summer term; must maintain continuous enrollment until the thesis is successfully defended, corrected/adjusted according to the committee’s will, and submitted to the Graduate School; must accumulate a minimum of 3 credit hours of thesis research and 3 credit hours of thesis writing.

Course Credit Justification: HUSC 5390 Thesis Writing is classified as independent study (as opposed to lecture, seminar, lab, practicum), meaning that the only focus of the credit is the independent, but guided work of the thesis. For each credit hour, students should expect to spend at least 45 hours/15 weeks fall or spring semester in study.

Course Delivery Modality: This course uses online asynchronous course delivery. Students are required to maintain contact with their committee chair EVERY enrolled long semester and summer term. The format of the thesis must be acceptable to the SFA Graduate School. Please refer to the most current version of the MS in Human Sciences Handbook for specific information.

Diversity Statement: James I. Perkins College of Education Diversity Statement is found at the following link: https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/about/deans-office-statements

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):  
The mission of the College of Education is to prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, social justice and continued professional and intellectual development in an interconnected global society.

Additional information about the College of Education vision, mission, and core values can be found at http://coe.sfasu.edu/about-us.

James I. Perkins College of Education Diversity Statement is found at the following link: https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/about/deans-office-statements
This course relates to the College of Education’s Conceptual Framework (CF) and/or Vision, Mission, Goals, and Core Values (VMGV).

Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, about human science theories, arguments, methods, and concepts.
2. Synthesize, critique, and critically consume quantitative and qualitative data in the field of human science.
3. Conduct research and apply theories of human sciences (thesis) OR analyze and synthesize research from the field of human sciences (comprehensive exam).

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
1. Prepare & format a thesis
2. Produce all chapters of the thesis
3. Defend the thesis

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, Use of Technology:

Course Assignments & Activities:
1. Students must formally contact the thesis chair at least twice each semester/term to document engagement and to report progress
2. Adhere to all Graduate School deadlines [http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/83.asp]
3. Apply for Graduation prior to the semester in which you plan to schedule the dissertation oral defense [http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/109.asp]
5. Prepare the thesis in a format that is consistent with APA style and format and graduate school format.
6. Develop a comprehensive review of the literature; include all relevant scholarship published in the last 8 years related to the topic, the research questions, and the research design/methodology.
7. Develop the finalized thesis product, generally consisting of a five-chapter format: Introduction; Review of the Literature; Research Design & Methodology; Results; Discussion. This is generally expected to be about 100-150 pages depending on the topic.
8. Write the thesis; present/defend the thesis; revise the thesis; submit the thesis following all college of education and university procedures.
9. Check updates/dates/information on COE website pages: [https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/student-resources/advising/graduate] and [https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/student-resources/advising/grad-forms]

Use of Technology:
Please make sure that you have access to a working computer that has a reliable internet connection. You will use BRIGHTSPACE to access all your course materials and you must use technology to access the course. Internet access and a working computer are essential tools for the course. In addition, Zoom technology may be utilized in the course, so you will need a working camera, speakers, and microphone on your computer as well.

Important notes about BRIGHTSPACE:
1. Most assignments that you will upload to BRIGHTSPACE should be done using a Word document or PowerPoint. If you do not currently have, or anticipate having, access to
Microsoft Office, then please make the appropriate arrangements to secure the appropriate software for use in this course. It would be virtually impossible for the professor to save work in multiple formats to accommodate for all individual software available—as such Microsoft Office is the sole means of acceptable software to be used for uploading relevant documents.

2. The most appropriate browsers to use with BRIGHTSPACE are either Google Chrome or Firefox.

**Attendance:**
While there is not an attendance grade for this course per se, it is important for you to note that you should frequently check-in with your advisor to update them about your progress.

**IV. Evaluation & Assessments (Grading):**
Student documentation of engagement and progress serve as the basis for assigning a grade of ‘P’ or ‘F’ for the enrolled term. The thesis chair determines the grade based on the student documentation – ‘P’ for or ‘F’ for inadequate progress. The assignment of a grade of ‘F’ stops the continuation of enrollment in HUSC 5190 Thesis Writing and may result in dismissal from the program.

Students who fail to contact their thesis chair within the first 12 days of class each semester/first 5 days of class each summer term will be administratively dropped from enrollment in class.

**V. Tentative Course Outline**
Please note that this is a tentative outline. If you wish to defend your thesis during this semester, you will have significantly less time to complete each task. Please see the COE graduate advising website at [https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/student-resources/advising/graduate](https://www.sfasu.edu/coe/student-resources/advising/graduate) to review the dates. Please be advised that you must submit all work to your advisor a minimum of 14 business days prior to the dates listed on the COE webpage. Submission to advisor does not guarantee approval of work. Work will not be submitted to the next step of the process until the advisor and committee sign off on the work.
VI.  **Course Textbook (Purchase required):** You may purchase digital copies if available.

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th edition)
Author: American Psychological Association
ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8


**Course readings suggested (not required):**
VII. Course Evaluations:

“Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses (the teaching itself and the content/assignments) taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty (full-time and part-time) annual evaluation processes, tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the PCOE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!”

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and summarized data will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Important course related policies:

Course Grades (Including WH), Policy 5.5

Final Course Grade Appeals by Students, Policy 6.3

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities, Policy 6.1

Appeal Procedure Relating to the Provision of accommodations for students with Disabilities, Policy 6.6

Class Attendance, Policy 6.7

Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, Policy 10.4

***Other SFA Policy Information

Student Mental Health

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

SFASU Counseling Services • www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet) • 936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic • www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202 • 936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
X. **Other Relevant Course Information:**

**Student Responsibility**
It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with all dates and to submit work in a timely manner. Submitting by the latest deadline does not guarantee that the student will propose during the enrolled semester. The draft must be approved at each level (advisor, committee, Graduate Program Coordinator, Director, Dean) before being sent to the next level of approval. Submission does not guarantee approval and student should be prepared to make edits until the submission is approved. If the thesis is not approved by the deadlines, the student will be required to reenroll in a minimum of 1-hour of HUSC 5190 the following semester and each subsequent semester until the final thesis is approved.

**Office Hours**
I conduct my office hours via Zoom, if you would like to attend office hours in person, please notify me that you will be coming by the office. When using Zoom, I try to conduct my office hours (as much as I can) as if we were still in person! I want to see your face and get to visit with you. :) If you came to my physical office for office hours and another student was there, you would wait in the hall until I finished with the person who was already there. What that means for you on Zoom is that when you follow the link for office hours from the course and log on to the office hours, you will be put into a "waiting room." You'll see a message that I will let you in shortly. If there is no student there already and no student in my physical office, I will immediately let you in. If you have to wait for a few minutes, that means I'm with someone. Don't worry, I WILL get to you in the order that you entered the waiting room. Even it is past the time for my office hours to end, I'll get to everyone who logs on! So if you have to wait, please be patient and know that I haven't forgotten you are there.