Thesis tips for MAAPE thesis-track students: Phil 5399A

Before signing up for Phil 5399A, the first of two thesis courses, you will need to have approval from a member of the graduate faculty who has agreed to serve as the director of your thesis committee.

**Identifying a thesis advisor:** Your thesis advisor is the single most important person you will work with in developing your thesis, and you should select your advisor from the graduate faculty with as much care and foresight as possible. Your choice of advisor should be guided by a consideration of: 1) who has the appropriate experience and expertise to guide your project (and whose research and teaching interests are best suited to your research topic), and 2) who is someone you believe you can work well with, someone whose mentoring style will be conducive to nurturing your philosophical development. Start looking for an advisor early in your time in the program: meet faculty, attend dialogues and departmental events, read the work of faculty members, talk with other students in the program (especially those who are well into their own thesis work) and attend thesis defenses. Once you have decided with whom you would like to work, make an appointment with the faculty member, discuss your project, and request that she or he serve as your advisor.

**Early** in the semester during which you are enrolled in Thesis A, you should:

- In consultation with your thesis advisor, determine what graduate faculty might serve as your two additional committee members. At least two members of your committee (including your advisor) must be members of the Philosophy Department. You may have committee members from other departments.
- Prepare an abstract of your thesis project (accompanied by an annotated bibliography) to show to the potential committee members.
- Secure agreement from the chosen faculty to serve on your committee.
- Develop a draft of your thesis proposal in consultation with your thesis advisor, *ideally within the first 6-8 weeks of Thesis A*. (See "A word (or two) about MAAPE thesis proposals").

Once you have a full draft of the proposal, all of your committee members should review and comment upon the draft. You will then revise the draft and craft a final version. (NOTE: be sure to allow sufficient time (generally, about two weeks) for your committee members to review your work.)

When your committee as a whole has agreed to your proposal, download the "Proposed Thesis Research" form from the Graduate College: [http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Forms.html](http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Thes-Diss_Info/T-D_Forms.html) After the form is signed by each of your committee members and the Chair of the department, turn it in to the Graduate College.

The latter part of the Thesis A course should be devoted to constructing at least one chapter of the thesis.

Remember that a full draft of the thesis must be provided to your committee members before midterm of the semester in which you are enrolled in Thesis B (Phil 5399B) and expect to graduate. If you do not meet the deadlines, it will be necessary for you to re-enroll in Phil 5399B the following semester. **DO NOT PLAN ON HAVING A THESIS DEFENSE SCHEDULED DURING EITHER OF THE SUMMER SESSIONS.** If you do not complete your thesis in the spring semester, you should expect to enroll in Phil 5399B again in the fall.