THESIS OVERVIEW:

Your thesis will stand as the culmination of your MALS work; as such it should demonstrate sustained intellectual effort consistent with the goals of the MALS program. Please note that work submitted in a prior course MAY NOT constitute a significant portion of your thesis, and the Curriculum Committee must be consulted in any situation where prior course work is to be included in a thesis.

Your thesis will ultimately take on the form of:

- Pure Research
- Applied Research, or
- Creative Writing

THESIS PROPOSAL PROCESS:

Students will have a general idea of their final thesis after having completed six courses.

You will then form a committee of three faculty members to serve as your thesis readers. Your first reader must be an individual who holds a regular Dartmouth faculty appointment; one of your readers must be a MALS faculty member; and ONLY your third reader may be a faculty member outside the Dartmouth community – please include this person’s CV along with a short statement from you to show how this person’s expertise contributes to your thesis topic.

It is critical that you work closely with your first reader for advice in formulating your proposal.

Submit your proposal (see Thesis Proposal form for further details on content and bibliography) to the MALS office for review by the Curriculum Committee, the term before your research commences. Submission deadlines are as follows:

- April 15, for the summer term
- August 1, for the fall term
- October 15, for the winter term
- February 1, for the spring term

Upon approval of your thesis proposal, students who elect to register for thesis research (MALS 137) must be “in residence” (i.e. within commuting distance of the college), have weekly meetings with your first reader and make significant progress towards completing your thesis. At the end of each term that you are enrolled in MALS 137 your first reader will be responsible for assigning a grade of credit/no credit. You may enroll in MALS 137 for a maximum of four terms.

FORMATTING:

Please refer to the thesis proposal form for the various sections you will need to address in your proposal.

Please DO NOT staple your proposal

You are responsible for submitting your proposal, with all required signatures, to the MALS office before the deadline; late submissions may be withheld from committee review until the next submission deadline!

PROPOSAL SAMPLES:

Proposal samples are available in the MALS office for review. Samples may not be photocopied or removed from the office.