



## Proposal for Thesis Hours

Semester 1 \_\_\_\_\_

(Designate fall, winter, summer and year)

Total Credits \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of work to be completed \_\_\_\_\_

(Approximate number of manuscript pages)

Semester 2 \_\_\_\_\_

(Designate fall, winter, summer and year)

Total Credits \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of work to be completed \_\_\_\_\_

(Approximate number of manuscript pages)

Semester 3 \_\_\_\_\_

(Designate fall, winter, summer and year)

Total Credits \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of work to be completed \_\_\_\_\_

(Approximate number of manuscript pages)

### STUDENT PROPOSAL FOR M.F.A. THESIS

In 500 words or less, write an overview describing the material you will write for your M.F.A. thesis.

- (1) Describe the structure of the creative work you intend to produce.

*For example:*

Is your fiction a traditional novel with the continuity of chapters, a single narrator, and a straightforward chronology? Is your nonfiction a collection of interrelated stories or essays that have thematic resonance? As a poet, do you intend to write in formal poetry or free verse? What does the shape of your creative work have to do with the content?

- (2) Elaborate on the creative material.

*For example:*

What do you intend to create thematically in fiction, poetry, or nonfiction? Even if you have only begun this work, it is reasonable to expect that you have thought about what this creative work will *mean*. Of course, meaning evolves during the writing of a thesis, what are the continuous elements in poetry, fiction or nonfiction that give your work thematic weight?

## MFA THESIS

### MFA Thesis Requirements:

Fiction/180 pages, minimum

Nonfiction/180 pages, minimum

Poetry/50 pages, minimum

Guidelines for the actual production of the manuscript (mechanics, paper, number of copies, preliminary pages that the Office of Graduate Studies requires, due dates) are the same guidelines used by M.A. students. These guidelines can be found on the following web site: <http://www.nmu.edu/gradstudies/thesis/>.

In addition to the manuscript produced, each MFA student is required to write a *prefatory essay*, which will be included with the thesis materials and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies. The essay, at least 10 pages in length, should discuss the relationship between the student's reading and writing.

The MFA candidate will be expected to compile a reading list, approved by the thesis director. These texts may include required texts from 600-level classes, as well as additional books chosen by the student, both critical and creative. On the occasion of the student's defense for the MFA degree, it is assumed that those in attendance will ask questions relevant to these readings and the creative work produced.