

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM

John Carey and Benjamin Valentino, Program Directors

THESIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Use the following questions to guide your thesis proposal. We suggest that you use them as subheadings in your proposal. The proposal should be approximately seven pages long (not including the annotated bibliography).

1. What is your research topic?
2. And more specifically, what is the question you will examine?
3. Why is it important and interesting?
4. What is your (preliminary) answer to the question? Or interpretation of the text?
5. What are the competing answers/interpretations?
6. How will you approach the research? Case studies? Large data sets? Surveys? Experiments? In-depth interviews? Textual resources? Primary sources?
7. What resources are available to you at Dartmouth that will help you in collecting your evidence?
8. Enclose a preliminary annotated bibliography (10-15 sources). An annotated bibliography includes a description in three to four sentences of the main findings of each reference and how it relates to your research.