

## **GUIDELINES FOR MA DISSERTATION**

### **Supervision Plan**

Supervisors may opt for either of the models given below:

- (1) A set of at least six meetings – individual and/or group -- of a minimum 55 min duration. These meetings could include student presentations, discussion of the mechanics of writing with reference to individual papers that have been presented in class.
- (2) A combination of at least 3 group meetings with the supervisor along with detailed email submissions by each of the candidates working with a particular supervisor, followed by responses by the supervisor. The mails may be copied to the MA email id of the department.

The dissertation should be no more than 4000 words, including notes but not including bibliography. Candidates may draw on their knowledge of scholarly procedure and practice as derived from their work on the Research Methodology course.

### **Typeface**

Type size should be 12 point font. Do not use script, or ornamental fonts.

### **Margins**

All margins, including left and right, top and bottom, must be one inch.

### **Spacing**

One and a half or double spacing is required in the main body of the dissertation except where conventional usage calls for single spacing; e.g., footnotes, indented quotations, etc.

### **Word and Text Divisions**

Words must be divided correctly at the end of a line and may not be divided from one page to the next. Use a standard dictionary to determine word division. Avoid short lines that end a paragraph at the top of a page, and any heading or subheading at the bottom of a page that is not followed by text.

### **Style**

Please use the Eighth edition of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Modern Language Association).

### **Order and Content**

1. Preliminary Pages
  - a. Title Page — The format must be followed exactly, as shown in the TITLE PAGE SAMPLE BELOW). The title of the dissertation should be a meaningful description of the content of the dissertation.

- b. Signature Page — The dissertation should be signed by the student and the supervisor. All signatures on the signature page must be original. However, if a faculty member is unable to sign in person, submissions with digital signatures may be permitted.
- c. Abstract of no more than 250 words.
- d. Acknowledgments.
- e. Table of contents, with page references for section headings. (optional)

## 2. Text

### a. Introduction.

b. Literature review -- a survey of scholarly sources (such as books, journal articles, and theses) related to the research question, as a means of situating the research work in relation to existing knowledge, combining both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information on the topic, including major debates, whereas a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information to provide a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations.

c. Main body, with the larger divisions and more important sub-divisions indicated by suitable, consistent headings.

NOTE: Chapterization is not recommended.

## 3. Bibliography or List of References.

### **Pagination**

Except for the title page, each page of the dissertation, including all blank pages, and pages with photographs, figures, maps, etc should be assigned a number. Consistent placement of pagination should be used throughout the dissertation including the preliminary pages.

### **Landscape**

For text, illustrations, charts, graphs, etc., printed in landscape form, the orientation should be facing away from the left (bound) edge of the paper.

### **Scholarly Reference**

Please use the Eighth edition of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (Modern Language Association). The placement of footnotes is at the discretion of the student with the supervisor's approval.

**ANTIQUARIES AND ANTIQUITIES IN  
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND**

By

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A Dissertation

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Prof. RMC