**What is HC 390?**

**THESIS Preparation Steps**

In HC 390, a one credit online course, you will prepare your thesis Proposal. Here is a brief list of steps that you will complete as part of writing your thesis proposal. The outcome of HC 390 is a thesis proposal ready for HC council approval.

1. **Draft Summary** (paragraph of 150 words summarizing your thesis idea(s).
2. **Faculty** **mentor**. This mentor will need to be in your discipline.
3. **Current research/knowledge** (a one page description).
   1. Early on a meeting with the HC librarian will help you find research in your area.
   2. Briefly describe the background and overall context of the research, incorporating at least 3-5 references/sources.
   3. Point out the gap in the literature that this project will fill.
   4. Include a short **rationale** for undertaking this project. This rationale should address these points:
      1. What are you attempting to do?
      2. What are the gaps in current knowledge about this topic are you attempting to fill?
      3. Describe the impact of the research on the discipline, society, plants, animals or humans (as the case may be); what is the benefit?
4. **Aims, Objectives** (approx. 1 page) **and Outcomes** (approximately 1/2 page in length)
   1. Include a short introduction to your Aims and Objectives section;
      1. List a number of “aims” and link objectives to each of these aims.
   2. Complete an Outcomes section for your proposal.
      1. This should include **Specific** outcomes (i.e. explain expected results), **Speculative** outcomes and potentially also **Personal** outcomes.
      2. What is the **importance** of this research for my research/disciplinary area and me?
5. **Methodology** (1/2 page)
   1. The purpose of this section is to explain ***HOW***you will do your thesis project.
   2. Clearly explains your choice of methods/approach, such as in steps, for example: "first", "next" and so on.
6. **Rough draft** of your proposal: (Mini checklist of required items in proposal)
7. word overview summary

Description of current research

Aims and Objectives

Methodology

IRB Statement (if applicable)

Outcomes

Biographical Note

A selected Bibliography

1. **Final Proposal:** with mentor approval and funding proposal (if necessary)