Guidelines for Completing the Thesis for the MA in English

1. Your thesis will entail working with two faculty members who will serve as your first and second readers. They will guide you through the process of completing the thesis.
2. Students are required to enroll in six hours of thesis, which they may take in one semester or spread out over two.
3. Thesis hours are like an “arranged study” in that you will not have formal weekly meeting times throughout the semester that you are enrolled, as you would in a traditional class. Early in the semester you enroll in thesis hours, if not before, you should work out a timeline for submitting drafts of your work to your first and second readers.
4. The thesis process involves drafting chapters one at a time, submitting them to your first and second readers for their comments and revision ideas, and then revising and resubmitting those chapters for approval. Depending on the arrangements you make with your readers, you may also schedule meeting times to discuss your work throughout the semester.
5. Your first and second readers may ask you to submit a thesis proposal before you begin work on the thesis. The earlier you submit the proposal the better, but no later than the end of the semester prior to the one in which you are enrolled in thesis hours.  Approval of the proposal by first and second readers may be required before beginning work on thesis.
6. The thesis proposal may include a project overview, a methodology statement, a literature review, statement of contribution, and outline of chapters.  The proposal may be as long as 5-10 pages, and will likely comprise parts of the introductory chapter of the thesis.
7. The thesis should be organized into chapters.
8. Follow all format guidelines established by the Graduate College, available on the Graduate College website: https://academics.nsuok.edu/graduatecollege/CurrentStudents/ThesisandCapstoneManual.aspx

1. The thesis should conform to MLA style.
2. Generally speaking, the thesis should be at least 40 pp. in length, excluding bibliography. Specific expectations about length will be worked out in conversation with the first and second readers. There are copies of completed theses available to review.
3. Students should submit a draft of the completed thesis to first and second readers at least one month prior to Graduate College deadline.
4. It is the student's responsibility to keep informed of all Graduate College deadlines concerning the thesis.  The student should give the first and second readers ample time to read and comment on the thesis, allowing enough time to revise the thesis and re-submit to the readers.