COMS 647 – Communication Technology
Dr. David J. Gunkel
Research Project Proposal

The research project proposal is a written document comprised of four parts. Each part should be addressed separately, and all responses should be as complete and descriptive as possible.

1) Thesis - Provide an explicit statement of what your project hopes to prove, demonstrate, or argue. This statement should be short (3-5 sentences) and concise. It should express a contended issue that requires subsequent argumentation or proof.

2) Method - Indicate what approach or approaches you will employ to research and prove your thesis. Obviously the method used should be appropriate to the issues and questions articulated in the thesis statement. In stating your method, please describe what you will do, where you will do it, and how this activity will provide data for resolving the thesis.

3) Plan - Describe how you will go about proving the thesis. Indicate the procedure that will be used to argue your position. Indicate how many parts the project will have, what each part will accomplish, and the relationship between these different parts. You may provide this information in either outline or narrative form.

4) Resources - List the various resources that you will employ to address your thesis. These may be books, journal articles, magazines, web sites, films, television programs, performances, songs, etc. Use the APA bibliographic form for presenting this information.

The proposal must be word processed, double spaced, and printed on white paper. On the average, a well-devised proposal will run about three pages. Because the proposal is a working document, it will not be assigned a grade. However, the effectiveness of the proposal will be assessed and evaluated by using the following five point scale:

1) The project, as it is described in the proposal, is in excellent shape. All questions are answered and all necessary information is provided. The thesis is argumentative and provable. The method will address and prove the thesis. The plan is workable and able to be executed in the context of the course. And the list of resources is complete.

2) The project, as it is described in the proposal, is satisfactory. Most questions are answered and almost all necessary information is provided. Some minor alterations in the thesis, method, plan, or resources will be required to make the project successful.

3) The project, as it is described in the proposal, is passable, pending significant revisions. Considerable alterations are required in the thesis, method, plan, and/or resources in order for the project to be successful.

4) The project, as it is described in the proposal, is unsatisfactory. Many of the proposal questions are not answered and crucial information is lacking. Major revisions in the thesis, method, plan, and/or resources must be undertaken in order for the project to be successful.

5) The project, as it is described in the proposal, is absolutely unacceptable and unworkable. Dump it and start over.