

This subject is the first of two subjects that prepare you for doing a thesis. The goals of this subject are to introduce you to resources for doing research, to help you identify research literature relevant to your interests, to review the structure and elements of a good research paper or thesis, and to practice writing. While doing this work, you should also start thinking about a potential topic for your thesis next year.

This subject is followed by 4.288 Preparation for SMarChS Thesis which you will take in your 3rd semester. In 4.288, you will work on developing your thesis topic – what it is, why it is important, and how you will carry out the thesis work. Your thesis topic and committee members need to be decided in your 3rd semester.

Until the time that you identify your thesis advisor, please work closely with your academic advisor, or other faculty members who are available to consult with, on developing potential areas for your thesis topic and appropriate subjects to take to prepare for your thesis. If you want, you can switch academic advisors this term or next, as long as you have the agreement of your proposed new advisor, and you inform your current advisor.

The Canvas website for this subject is at: <https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/30969>

#### DRAFT Schedule

Session	Day/Time	Topic
1	TBA	<b>Introduction</b> <i>Assignment 1 handout</i>
2	TBA	<b>Bibliography research</b> Library Presentation: Online research resources <i>Assignment 2 handout (Bibliography research)</i>
3	TBA	<i>Assignment 2 review</i> <b>SMArchS thesis review and critique</b> Introduction to structure of a thesis presentation and review <i>Assignment 3 handout (Critiquing 2nd year mid-term thesis presentations)</i>
**	TBA	<b>SMArchS thesis midterm review</b> – attend for Assignment 3
4	TBA	<i>Assignment 3 review</i> <b>Thesis types and structure</b> Introduction to the structure and elements of a thesis and to thesis typologies <i>Assignment 4 handout (Reading and critiquing a SMarChS thesis)</i>
5	TBA	<i>Assignment 4 review</i> <b>Writing a short conference paper</b> Intro to structure and elements of a short conference paper <i>Assignment 5 handout (Writing a short paper)</i>
**	TBA	<b>Special Session on Copyright and Open Access @MIT</b>
6	TBA	<i>Assignment 5 Review</i> Wrap-up

The Writing and Communication Center offers free one-on-one professional advice from communication specialists with advanced degrees and publishing experience. The WCC can help you further develop your oral communication skills and learn about all types of academic and professional writing. You can learn more about the WCC consultations at <http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center> and register with the scheduler to make in-person and virtual appointments through <https://mit.mywconline.com>. Please note that the WCC hours are offered Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm, and fill up fast.

You may also want to work with the department's writing specialist, Marilyn Levine (room 3-305F). You can set up an appointment with her at <https://calendly.com/maynew/writing-consultations-arch>