500 RESEARCH METHODS

Assignment #1: Thesis/Applied Project Outline Review

Your first assignment is simple -- two steps:

1. Review the general notes on distinctions between the thesis and applied project contained in your copy of the School of Design Graduate Student Handbook appendix, the School of Architecture Handbook, or the ASU Graduate College Format Manual (available from the Graduate College).

2. Go to the library and find a thesis or applied project in a subject area that you have some interest or knowledge. Don't select a Ph.D. dissertation or a thesis/project that is completely "foreign" to you -- chemical engineering, French, etc. The choice does not have to be in your concentration but should be of general interest. Do the following:

   A. Review the table of contents, read the abstract and the summary and conclusions chapter -- just get a general idea of what the subject is, the approach and the findings. Summarize your observations in one or two paragraphs (make sure you “capture” the essence of the study).

   B. Outline the generic format of the thesis or applied project.

   C. Compare the format of the thesis or applied project to the generic thesis format that you currently know about -- i.e. -- the Graduate Student Handbook. Simply be prepared to discuss the organization and sequence of the format during the next class!

   D. Turn in your typed observations, outline and other observations on the due date noted on your syllabus!