As you decide on a topic for your final paper, try to identify and examine critical studies

related to it. Although this is not technically a “research paper,” it still requires some

outside investigation. These critical studies can be related generally or more specifically

to your topic. They can be in the form of monographs, chapters of books, and articles in

journals (you should select at least four items). Your final paper proposal is like a

progress report on your paper topic. You may consider the following questions: What do

you plan to examine and analyze in your paper? Which genres (*shi* poetry, *ci* poetry,

short stories, or novels), thematic categories (marital love, courtesan romances, shrewish

wives…), or works (works by particular writers) will you focus on? What is the theme or

thesis? What can you draw from previous studies? How will you go about demonstrating

the thesis of your paper? You can explore the same topic as one of your short papers.

However, you should go into more detail with the topic and produce a solid piece of

formal writing based on your own argument.

• Bibliography: MLA recommended; or use one citation form consistently.