**Writing a Synopsis** (SCHÄFER/PÖSCHEL, Semesterplaner 2017-2018, S. 134f.)

**Synopsis** = 1st draft of a thesis

When planning a consultation with your academic tutor about your Bachelor project, it is wise to prepare a synopsis of your project.

A synopsis is much more than a first table-of-contents

Instead, it needs to convey the following information:

- **what,**
- **for what purpose,**
- **how,**
- **within which time frame,**
- applying **which methods &**
- building on **which theory** you would like to deal with your topic.

A synopsis forces you to structure your thoughts clearly; it allows you to correctly assess the work done and the work still necessary. It also prevents you from choosing a topic prematurely.

A synopsis contains at least the following elements:

- **Personal details** (surname, first name, degree course, semester, student ID),
- **Timeframe** for writing your thesis.
- **Title** suggested.
- Brief overview of the aspects you wish to study and why you are dealing with the topic (**Theoretical & practical relevance of the topic**).
- Elaboration of the central **theoretical framework** and – with empirical studies – the **concept of gaining the data**.
  When **writing for/with a firm**, also state how the new knowledge provided by your thesis is to be implemented.
- Overview of the **current state of research** (including a list of the most relevant literature) and outline of your own expertise so far.²
- Representation of your planned **original/novel contribution** (problems, hypotheses, models etc.)³
- Delineation of **results expected**.
- Draft **table-of-contents**
- **Task schedule**: = Overview of timed work packages (Which point of the T-o-C is to be finished when?)

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1 **Synopsis** = DE: Exposé

2 A **typical shortcoming** of synopses is insufficient research, as a result of which it is claimed that the topic at hand needs to be dealt with extensively.

3 The larger your **original contribution**, the larger the likelihood of positive assessment of your thesis. – Apart from the options mentioned, other (less challenging) forms could be: self-devised graphs (e.g. charts and tables), process models, stage models.

4 **Task schedule** = DE: Arbeitsplan