Dear ______:  
Personal intro and explanation of why you are contacting professor:

Connection with the professor or with research area:

Explanation of project idea (connect with professor’s area of research):

Explanation of personal research thus far (background, literature review, annotated bibliography):
  e.g., “From my research, I have found the following gaps…” / “My research suggests the following trends…”

Research question and/or purpose statement:

Details about your timeline/outline/thought map (or state that outline/thought-map is attached):

Goals for project (e.g., timelines/to-do list/meeting expectations/ when you will officially begin the first Thesis 492 course and defend your thesis):

Request for meeting:

Gratitude statement/closing:

Include personal email and phone number: