Some traditional sections found in an Introduction chapter of a thesis or dissertation

Note: The titles and sub-titles given below are most often than not used “as is” with little variation. In addition, not all these sections are required in every dissertation. Discuss what sections are necessary for your own study with your advisor.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

A. Background (general context of the situation, story of the research problem)

B. Motivation

C. Problem Statement

D. Objectives and Research Questions

E. Overall Research Methodology

F. Definitions of Terms

G. Significance of the Study
   a. Theoretical Contributions
   b. Practical Contributions

H. Assumptions of the Study
   a. Theoretical Assumption
   b. Methodological Assumption

I. Hypotheses

J. Related Work

K. Scope and Limitations of the Study

L. Organization and Overview of the Dissertation