

(SAMPLE SYLLABUS)

Honors Thesis in Anthropology

ANT 4972

3 credit hours

Instructor: [Varies]

Contact Information: [office address, phone number, and e-mail for the instructor]

Office Hours: [To be determined by the instructor]

Class location and time:

Course description

Honors Thesis in Anthropology is the capstone course for the Honors in the Major program in Anthropology. It must be taken twice in a two-semester sequence. During the first semester the student should learn about research design, identify a thesis project, and plan the research. In the second semester, the student carries out the research and writes the thesis. Because these tasks form a logical sequence, a student will not normally be allowed to take the course twice during the same semester. The thesis shall present the results of a substantial and original research project. Topics covered in the course will vary depending on the anthropological subfield (biological, cultural, archaeology) and the focus of the student's research. The course is not required for the major in Anthropology, but only for the student who wishes to achieve Honors in the Major.

Note of Honors Distinction: This course differs substantially from the non-Honors courses. First, the writing and research components of the course are much more demanding. Students will be exposed to vocabulary of a specifically theoretical nature, and will be expected to comprehend these new concepts and to deploy these new terms in their own critical thinking, analysis, and writing. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the history and the ongoing critical and scholarly conversation about these works. Students will also engage with the theoretical, methodological, or technological tools used by anthropologists.

Prerequisites

Enrollment in the course is limited to students who have applied for and been admitted to the Honors track in Anthropology and who are currently in good standing in the program. Consult the Catalog for the requirements of the Honors track in Anthropology. Students should normally have completed the research methods course in the relevant subfield (ANT4116 for archaeology, ANT4192 for biological anthropology, ANT4495 for sociocultural anthropology) prior to enrolling in the first semester of Honors Thesis in Anthropology. Enrollment in this course may be limited by availability of faculty advisors to supervise thesis projects. Students should consult with their faculty advisor or the Honors in the Major program director to determine their eligibility to enroll.

Method of instruction

The class will normally be organized as a directed independent study supervised by the student's advisor. When there is sufficient enrolment, the first semester offering may be taught as a regularly

scheduled class. Therefore, consult the university course schedule to determine if the class is scheduled. If it is not, speak with your advisor about registering individually. This course is not offered as a distance learning class.

Textbook

Texts, readings, and other instructional materials will be determined on an individual basis by the faculty thesis advisor.

Catalog description

A two-semester sequence of this course is required for Honors in the Major in Anthropology. The course requires substantial original research in one of the subfields of anthropology, culminating in the presentation of an Honors thesis that is successfully defended before the faculty. Students must earn a grade of B+ or higher in each semester to be eligible for Honors in the Major.

Course evaluation and Grading

Grading will employ the University's common grading scale of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. Students must achieve a grade of B+ or higher in each semester of the two-semester sequence to be eligible for the designation of Honors in the Major. Students who receive a grade lower than a B+ will still earn credit towards the Anthropology Bachelor's degree provided the grade is a C or higher.

Specific assignments and their contribution toward the final grade will be determined by the individual instructor in each case. In general, however, the first semester will work towards the formulation of a research proposal, while the second semester should culminate in the presentation of an Honors Thesis to the faculty.

The Honors Thesis itself will be read and graded by at least two faculty members. The student shall also present and defend the thesis before the faculty. To receive Honors, a Thesis should be of exceptional quality. It must be thoroughly researched, logically organized, and clearly written. It will present original ideas and results, the significance of which are established by identifying potential theoretical implications of the problem investigated and by reviewing previous research on the subject. Data must be analyzed and the results interpreted in terms of the problem formulated. Presentation and dissemination of the results should employ appropriate media and demonstrate competence in the appropriate genres of discourse.

Course objectives

Over the course of the two-semester sequence, the student should learn to design and carry out original research in anthropology, which requires an understanding of anthropological theory, methods, problem formulation, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of results. Because anthropology is characteristically a field and laboratory science, theses will normally include the collection, analysis, and interpretation of original data. Students should therefore learn how to formulate a scientific question, including design of hypotheses if appropriate; to select or to develop

valid and reliable measures to address the problem; to determine which data are relevant to the problem and therefore ought to be collected; to distinguish which data can be collected; to select techniques to collect the data; to use qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyze the data; to interpret the results of the analysis; and to communicate the results.

Policy on attendance, makeup tests, late work, and incompletes

Students are expected and required to attend all scheduled classes, meetings, and labs. I reserve the right to reduce grades because of absences. I may make exceptions, at my discretion, in individual cases if you contact me in advance, but the effect of absences on grades is determined by the instructor. You will not be penalized for officially excused absences, but you are required to make up all work missed because of excused absences, including officially excused ones.

Please come to classes and meetings prepared to discuss and ask questions about readings and homework. Please arrive on time. Coming late distracts the whole class. If you must arrive late, please enter unobtrusively.

The grades of any assignments completed late may be reduced at my discretion. If you need an extension on an assignment, please discuss the matter with me in advance.

The deadline for the final draft of the thesis itself may be inflexible for logistical and administrative reasons. Therefore, it may not be possible to receive an extension. Missing the deadline, which falls several weeks before the last day of classes, may foreclose your opportunity to graduate with an Honors in the Major designation.

Make-up exams for missed tests, if any, will not normally be given except in extraordinary circumstances that can be clearly documented.

If you wish to receive a grade of Incomplete in this class, you must discuss the matter in advance with the instructor.

Academic integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. You commit plagiarism when you present someone else's words or ideas as your own. Proper citation indicates the source or origin of other people's words or ideas. Therefore, all statements, quotations, data, illustrations, and ideas that are not originally your own should carry a citation to indicate their source. Paraphrasing, that is, minor alterations to diction or grammar, does not relieve you of the obligation to correctly cite your source.

Thus, paraphrasing the words of others without proper citation is still plagiarism. Although it is always wrong, plagiarism is especially deleterious in a thesis because it is a significant and public document that is open to wide scrutiny. Plagiarism in this class will preclude you from graduating with an Honors in the Major designation and may lead to additional sanctions as well.

Falsifying or altering scientific data is a cataclysmic breach of academic integrity. Honesty is the foundation of scientific inquiry. Manipulating, inventing, or discarding data to influence or alter the outcome of a study is a grave violation of the public trust, as well as a gross academic offense. It will therefore be treated with the utmost severity.

Disability Policy Statement

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodation to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010) -- and follow all OSD procedures.

Course outline

The course is normally offered as a directed independent study, and each student's research topic varies. Therefore, it is impossible to specify in detail the assignments or their timing. In general, however, during the first semester the student will work towards the formulation of a research proposal, while the second semester should culminate in the presentation of an Honors Thesis to the faculty.

Thesis due date

The final draft of a thesis will be due on the date specified as "Last Day to Submit Master's Thesis" on the official University calendar (see <http://www.fau.edu/registrar/registration/calendar.php>). For the Spring 2015 semester, this date is April 6th. For the Fall 2015 semester, this date is November 16th. Note that these dates fall several weeks before the last day of classes to provide time for review, defense, and (one hopes) approval of the thesis. Unless you have received *written* notice from your faculty advisor that the due date is different, please assume that your thesis will be due on that date. As mentioned earlier, these dates are usually "hard" deadlines, meaning that even with all the good will in the world, it may not be possible to change them. *Missing the deadline may foreclose your opportunity to graduate with an Honors in the Major designation.*