

ANT 496—Senior Thesis

The Senior thesis in Anthropology, ANT 496, is a three-credit course in which a student works one-on-one with a faculty member to conduct a piece of original anthropological research, synthesize the results of that research, and present them in the model of a published article in an anthropology journal. ANT 496 is typically taken the semester of graduation. Enrollment is by departmental permission only and requires completion and submission of the attached application. Criteria on which applicants will be evaluated include the quality of the proposal, completion of the requisite background preparation, the feasibility of completing the project in the allotted time frame, and the applicant's academic record.

Requirements for ANT496 Senior Thesis

- 1) **Faculty mentor** At the beginning of the semester *before* taking ANT 496, the student should enlist a faculty mentor who will oversee the thesis project.
- 2) **Application for ANT 496** The student must complete the required application for ANT 496 (attached). The proposal must be submitted by the appropriate deadline and pass the required departmental review. Students wanting to do a thesis in cultural anthropology should be enrolled in or have completed ANT 394, Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology
- 3) **Evidence of Preparation** At the time of application, the student should show formal evidence of substantial preparation for the project. This preparation may include the following:
 - a literature search and annotated bibliography
 - a term paper that lays significant groundwork for the thesis
 - coursework, fieldwork or practicum in the thesis area that lays significant groundwork for the thesis
 - application to the IRB, or for other permits, as appropriate
 - enlisting a second reader for the thesis
- 4) **Meeting the Preparation Requirement** The student may do any of the following to meet the preparation requirement for the thesis, *subject to departmental approval*:
 - a. The student may enroll with her/his mentor in ANT 499 for three credits in the semester before ANT496 to prepare for the research.
 - b. A student who has already completed significant preparation for ANT 496 may take ANT 499 for one credit, in order to prepare the thesis proposal and application(s).
 - c. In certain cases another 400-level course with the mentor may be substituted for ANT499,
- 3) **Successful completion of ANT 496** requires
 - a. producing a piece of original anthropological research and analysis presented in a format following that of a peer-reviewed article in an appropriate anthropology journal; and

- b. giving an oral presentation of this work to the faculty and students in a departmental colloquium.

Examples of senior theses can be viewed in the Anthropology Departmental Office (C 12 Cooper).

Please make note of the timeline and required activities below for planning, application and completion of senior thesis.

TIMELINE FOR PLANNING AND COMPLETION OF SENIOR THESIS

Semester preceding enrollment in 496

Enrollment in ANT 499 or other approved 400 course with faculty mentor to conduct background research, literature search, and prepare application

Submit thesis proposal to department

by midterm

Departmental decision

no later than beginning of registration for following semester

Submit human subjects proposal to IRB
(if research involves work with human subjects)

December 1st, for spring semester;
last meeting of IRB during spring semester for fall

Semester of enrollment in ANT 496

Weekly meetings with thesis supervisor (required) to discuss readings, research progress, and drafts of written material

beginning week 1

Together with supervisor, select a second reader for thesis (does not have to member of ANT dept)

Before midterm

First rough draft of thesis due to advisor and reader

Midterm

Second draft of thesis due to advisor and reader

Week 12

Presentation of thesis results to departmental colloquium

Last week of classes

Final thesis due to advisor and reader

final exam week

REQUEST TO ENROLL IN ANT 496, SENIOR THESIS

Name _____

GPA (overall) _____ **(In anthropology)** _____

Semester for which you are applying _____

Include below the proposed topic of your senior thesis, a brief abstract (100-300 words) that elaborates on the topic and how you intend to approach it. Also list selected pertinent bibliographic sources. Give the name of the faculty mentor who will advise this thesis and in a short paragraph describe the preparatory work you have done or are currently doing in a 499 or other 400 level course. You may also append to this application, though it is not required, a sample of your writing from an Anthropology course.

TOPIC:

ABSTRACT:

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES:

THESIS ADVISOR _____

2ND READER _____

BRIEF DECRPTION OF WORK DONE IN PREPARATION FOR THE THESIS: