

Anthropology 4010Y and 4020D
FOURTH YEAR HONOURS THESIS
SYLLABUS

Supervision: To be arranged by student after initial consultation with the Department Chair.
Meeting Dates: A minimum of three per term, as arranged with supervisor.

A thesis is a major undertaking and requires a commitment and focus beyond the average expectation of undergraduate students. The key to success in such an undertaking is for students to have a topic they really want to investigate that would not be possible with available course work. The thesis option is intended for qualified students (minimum 80% or A- overall average in Anthropology courses) who have a strong interest in investigating a topic in greater depth than is possible in existing Honours year courses. The course may be taken for double credit in Anthropology (AN4020D) or as one credit in Anthropology (AN4010Y) and one in another department or program for Joint-Majors. Prerequisites include either Anthropology 3100Y (310) or 3990Y (399) as appropriate and any other courses directly relevant to the proposed thesis topic.

Students registered in the course have the major task of researching and writing a thesis between 12,000 and 15,000 words in length. Their work is guided and supervised by a thesis committee of two faculty members, either both in Anthropology in the case of AN4020D or one in Anthropology and the second in another department or program in the case of Joint-Majors taking AN4010Y. The **first reader** has primary responsibility for the student's work, while the **second reader** has secondary responsibility. Both, however, are responsible for marking the student's work at the end of the year.

Registration Procedures:

- Step 1: Student first consults with the Department Chair to declare his/her interest in the thesis option and to identify a potential thesis committee. This consultation should take place no later than the first week of March in the preceding academic year.
- Step 2: Student then takes the initiative in contacting the prospective faculty identified and seeking their agreement.
- Step 3: In consultation with his/her thesis committee, the student prepares a formal 1-2 page written proposal to the Department for approval to take the thesis option. The proposal should include the following:
- (a) A brief explanation why the student wants the thesis option, to include a clear rationale for going beyond or outside of existing course offerings.
 - (b) An outline of the issue to be investigated, accompanied by a bibliography of core literature.
 - (c) Outline of a schedule of meetings with the supervisor.
 - (d) A breakdown of the grades to be assigned for the different components of the project.
 - (e) Signatures of the two faculty members who have agreed to act as supervisor and second reader and that of the Department Chair.

The written proposal should be prepared and approved in time for April preregistration.

- Step 4: Students are expected to begin preparatory reading for the thesis over the summer. Once approved for registration, students should request the help of their thesis committee in making a list of relevant summer reading.
- Step 5: A more comprehensive thesis proposal is to be prepared by the end of September in the academic year in which the course is taken.
- Step 6: A progress report (supported by written work) to the thesis committee by the end of the Fall Reading Break.
- Step 7: A second progress report by the end of the first week of classes in January.
- Step 8: First complete draft is expected by the end of the February Reading Break, to be returned with supervisors comments by March 1st.
- Step 9: A six-week period for student to prepare a finished copy of the thesis to be delivered to the thesis committee no later than the day before the beginning of the Final Examination period.
- Step 10: The final finished draft is read by the supervisor and second reader who will forward the thesis with final evaluation and grade to the Department Chair. If the grade is not a passing one, the supervisory committee may recommend to the Chair that the student be given single course credit for AN4900Y, rather than for AN4020D's double-credit.
- Step 11: A copy of the thesis is to be deposited in the University Library and another copy in the Anthropology Resource Room.