

Course Syllabus
ANTH 410C: Research Design
(Archaeology, Physical Anthropology and Museum Studies)

Prerequisites: Anthropology major, junior or senior, in good standing.

Description

This course is an independent study that initiates the senior sequence in anthropology. The Senior Project sequence – ANTH 410C: Research Design, ANTH 411: Fieldwork, ANTH 412C: Senior Thesis – is required of all students who plan to graduate as anthropology majors. In these three independent study courses students apply their knowledge of the discipline's literature and theory to an anthropologically defined problem as they go through the process of designing, conducting, and writing up anthropological research. The senior sequence culminates with the public presentation of a senior thesis for approval by the department.

During ANTH 410C, the Research Design class, students plan their research agenda and conduct background investigations, including a literature review, for their upcoming field study. This field study may be undertaken in Oregon, elsewhere in the United States, or abroad. The research may be based on a formal field school, an internship, a service project, or a study-abroad program. In certain cases, especially where institutional support is not required, it may involve independent research. Empirical research is required; a library study alone is not adequate. A minimum time commitment of half-time (20 hours per week) for 10 weeks is expected. Students must select and plan their field study in consultation with an advisor from the Department of Anthropology during the course of ANTH 410C. Speak to your advisor well ahead of the beginning of the term.

Required Texts

There is no single required text. The student should have completed the appropriate theoretical/methodological coursework prior to undertaking fieldwork, i.e. ANTH 311D Human Evolution for physical anthropology, ANTH 480D History and Theory of Archaeology for archaeology, and ANTH 360D Museum Studies for museum research. Appropriate readings drawn from the subfield in which the student plans to work are selected in consultation with the instructor. This reading list should be developed by the third week of the term. It should cover method and theory in the student's area and background research on the culture, site, species or other topic under consideration.

Requirements

Students meet weekly with their advisor during office hours or at another agreed time. The student must take the initiative in seeking out the professor. Failure to do so will diminish the student's final grade.

During meetings students report on progress toward the following goals:

1. Selection of field site.

- Apply and secure acceptance to a field school
 - Contact necessary organizations and/or individuals
 - Prepare or update a personal resume
 - Undergo an interview with the desired organization (if necessary)
 - Obtain official research permission (if necessary)
- (For field schools, internships, study abroad or any other field site where start/finish dates are determined by others, the student should apply and receive acceptance before enrolling in ANTH 410C if possible)

2. Literature Review.

- Compile a bibliography of relevant published materials
- select books and articles that are theoretically, methodologically, regionally, or topically relevant to the proposed research objectives
- Designate a reading list of works to be read during the term (due week #3)
- Plan to read approximately four books, or ten to fifteen articles, or a combination thereof
- Write at least four article/chapter summaries, or book annotations; bring one or more each week, weeks 3-6, to be reviewed by your advisor
- Write your literature review; cite books and articles in-text according to the style adopted by the American Anthropological Association. Maintain a References Cited list at the end of every draft as you compose it, also formatted according to the American Anthropological Association Style Guide. Never submit a rough draft without complete citations.

3. Parts of the Proposal

- Write an 8-10 page formal research proposal that consists of:
 1. Carefully constructed title (contains informative key words)
 2. Abstract (write after completing proposal)
 3. Introduction
 - Context
 - Research question
 4. Literature review
 5. Theoretical orientation
 6. Methods
 7. Data analysis
 8. References cited

9. Appendices

- Timeline
 - Survey, interview or participant observation guides
 - IRB application (if appropriate)
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- Submit at least two preliminary drafts of this research proposal to your advisor prior to the presentation date; submission in weeks 7 and 8 will allow time for comments and suggestions. Spring term presentations are on Academic Showcase day, during week 9 of the term.
 - Personally present one hard copy of your final draft to each anthropology faculty member (unless an electronic copy is requested) at least 48 hours prior to presentation.
 - Prepare a verbal presentation accompanied by appropriate visuals.
 - Participate in a presentation rehearsal and provide feedback to your peers on their practice presentations.

4. Submit an electronic version of your project title and abstract to Prof. R. Smith, for the department's web page. This is due when you submit your final proposal to your advisor.

5. If working with human subjects complete forms and gain approval from the university Institutional Review Board (IRB). Note that the IRB may have questions of its own about your proposed work. Do not wait until the last minute and then expect to begin fieldwork with human subjects immediately.

6. Prepare Materials for Data Collection

- Construct preliminary questionnaires and interview guides if needed in the research.
- Make arrangements to acquire or borrow necessary research materials (tape recorders, cameras, etc.).

Research Proposal Presentations Week 9

Your thesis proposal will be read and evaluated by all faculty members in the Department of Anthropology. The version of your proposal provided no later than 48 hours before presentation must be approved by your advisor before you distribute it. Your proposal should demonstrate good theoretical grasp of the issues and well-thought out and appropriate methods.

In week 9 you present your research design in a formal symposium to anthropology professors, students, and other interested parties. At the presentation you discuss your research plans, answer questions, and receive advice and comments on your proposals from the audience. You will incorporate these in your final proposal which you submit to your individual faculty advisor for final approval at an agreed time during exam week and prior to beginning your field research.

IRB application

All students working with human subjects are required to submit their research proposal to the Internal Review Board (IRB) of Western Oregon University. The IRB will evaluate whether your research meets ethics standards for work with human and animal subjects. Approval from the IRB is required if you want to present or publish your results. You can find more information and application forms at

<http://www2.wou.edu:7777/pls/wou2/irbapp.form.app>

You are advised to read IRB documents carefully early in the development of your research plan so that you are able to avoid review delays.

Grading

Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows. See above for more details on expectations for each item.

Item	Percentage of grade
Reading list	10
Article summaries	20
Weekly meetings with advisor	10
Presentation of proposal	10
Final proposal	50
	100%