



ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS (L6078)

Course convenor:
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FINAL YEAR STRUCTURE

SINGLE HONOURS

Autumn term: two advanced topics in Anthropology

Spring term: two advanced topics in Anthropology OR one topic and year-long thesis

JOINT HONOURS

Autumn term: one advanced topic in Anthropology

Spring term: one advanced topic in Anthropology OR year-long thesis
(*thesis not available for joints in Geography or History)

WHAT IS AN ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS?

The Anthropology Thesis is an exciting opportunity to do individual and original supervised research on a topic that you have chosen yourself relating to Anthropology.

Original research may involve fieldwork and data collection, but this is not compulsory. For instance, discourse analysis, analysis of existing data (such as in the Mass Observation Archive), and theoretical innovation are all examples of original research.



YEAR-LONG THESIS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

8,000 words

30 credits

Written under the supervision of a faculty mentor

Based on primary research → usually in summer

- Ethnographic fieldwork (participant observation; interviews; surveys)
- Discourse analysis (e.g. representation in movies, media, advertisement; museums and displays, songs and lyrics)
- Analysis of existing data (Mass Observation Archive)

Some disciplines **require** a year-long thesis (Geography, History)

- Joint majors must check the requirements of their degree

For some disciplines it is **optional** (Anthropology, International Development)

APPLYING TO DO A YEAR-LONG THESIS

Students must apply during their second year to undertake the year-long thesis in Anthropology by submitting a **research proposal**.

- 1 - 2 pages long
- Due in **Week 9** of the Spring Term
- **Deadline: 26 March 2020**
- Email to anthoffice@sussex.ac.uk cc di40@sussex.ac.uk

The research proposal will be evaluated. You must achieve more than 60% on your proposal to be matched with a supervisor.

We will also look assess your marks for the first year, although there is not a strict rule about average required.



ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS TIMETABLE

Year 2 (this term!)

Week 9: Submission of research proposal

(Deadline: Thursday 26 of March 2020)

Week 10-11: Allocation of supervisors in Anthropology

Next steps: First meeting with your supervisor to plan fieldwork (if appropriate) and start **ethical clearance**

Summer: Fieldwork (some students may do this later)



ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS TIMETABLE

Year 3

Autumn: Reading, planning, analysing fieldwork and/or preparing for more fieldwork; 3 research workshops with convenor and supervisor.

Oral presentations: weighed 10% of the final mark

Spring: Writing up; individual meetings with supervisor, 3 workshops with convenor.

Submit thesis in Assessment Block 2

Weighed 90% of the final mark



STUDY ABROAD

- If you are **currently studying abroad**, you need to send your research proposal in **week 9 (26 March 2020)**.
- After being allocated a supervisor in week 10-11, and obtaining ethical clearance from the university, you can **conduct fieldwork whilst being abroad** (e.g. summer).
- If you are currently in your second year at Sussex, and **preparing to start a Study Abroad programme**, you can submit your research proposal in week 9. After being allocated a supervisor in week 10-11, and obtaining ethical clearance from the university, **you can conduct fieldwork during your year/term-abroad**.



DEFERRING YOUR STUDIES

If you are **deferring** your studies at Sussex, you **cannot** conduct fieldwork as a student of the UoS during the interruption of your studies. However, **you can still apply** with a research proposal **before your deferral**, and conduct research in the **summer before you return** to the university.

Please contact the convener to discuss your specific case.



RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Your proposal should be 1-2 pages long and set out:

- The title and topic area
- Background and aims
- Key research questions
- Literature review (how your research relates to the anthropological literature)
- Proposed methodology
- Ethical considerations
- Timetable of work and potential supervisor (optional)
- Bibliography (not included in word count)

Check the Handbook with more information and samples of previous proposals
Available in the Canvas site, or email the convenor di40@sussex.ac.uk



NOT SURE WHAT TO WRITE A THESIS ABOUT?

Consult with the module convenor

Discuss with your Academic Adviser

Contact a member of the department
whose work you find relevant

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology/people/peoplelists/group/academic-faculty>



MORE INFORMATION AND NEXT STEPS...

Come and see me (Diana Ibañez-Tirado) in office hours to discuss if the Anthropology Thesis module is a good choice for you:

- Wednesdays 11:00 – 13:00 Arts B365
- Or via appointment, email di40@sussex.ac.uk

You can also consider:

Visit Evelyn Dodds at the Global Studies Resource Centre to look at past theses to get ideas

Look at the [research profiles of faculty](#) to locate themes and expertise

Contact your academic adviser to discuss a topic of your interest

