

ENVS 197
Senior Thesis

Fall 2016

Class time: Mondays, 2:00 – 4:30 pm

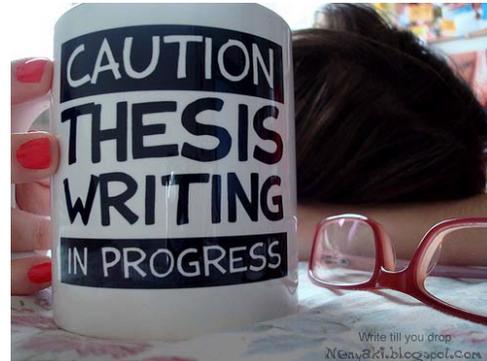
Class location:

Professor Simone Pulver

Pulver@es.ucsb.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2-4pm

Bren Hall, Floor 4L, Rm 4001



Course description

This seminar is designed to provide structure, guidance, and support for you, Environmental Studies majors who want to write a senior thesis. The course will take you step-by-step through the process of conceptualizing and completing a research project.

The focus for each of you will be on: 1) identifying a significant research problem and developing an appropriate research question; 2) finding a Senior Thesis research advisor who is an expert in your area of research; 3) thinking critically about the work of other scholars in relation to your research question; 4) making good choices regarding research design and evidence; 5) developing coherent arguments, analysis and assessment; and 6) developing skills in constructive criticism and formal academic writing. The seminar emphasizes the iterative, interactive process of research—how the various building blocks of research interact with and influence one another.

By the end of the Fall Quarter, you will be well on your way to writing a successful senior thesis in Environmental Studies! Specifically, you will have written the first two chapters of your thesis (Chapter 1 – Introduction and Research Overview and Chapter 2 – Literature Review), started your collaboration with a research advisor, and developed a research design and data collection strategy. During Winter Quarter, you will focus on data collection and data analysis. Finally, during Spring Quarter, you will focus on writing up your results and conclusions and preparing for your senior thesis presentation.

Grading

The ENVS 197 thesis course is a six-unit course. The final grade for this course will be awarded in the spring quarter, when you complete your thesis. However, the work you complete during the fall quarter will also be graded and will count towards your final thesis grade.

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| Fall seminar attendance | 5% |
| Fall seminar assignments | 15% |
| DRAFT Thesis Chapters 1 and 2 | 25% |
| Check-in during first two weeks of winter quarter | 2% |
| Check-in during first two weeks of spring quarter | 2% |
| Thesis | 51% |

Thesis Time Table

Fall Quarter: Developing a research question and research plan

1. Attend Fall Thesis Seminar
2. Establish a collaboration with a research advisor
3. Apply for research funds, human subjects protection, etc. as appropriate to your research.
4. At the end of fall quarter, submit Chapters 1 – Introduction and Research Overview and Chapter 2 – Literature Review, with revisions based on feedback from peer review, Prof Pulver, and research advisor.
5. Submit incomplete petition

Winter Quarter: Data collection and data analysis

1. Meet with Prof Pulver to go over thesis plan for winter quarter
2. Write Chapter 3 – Background or a another substantive empirical chapter
3. Collect and analyze data
4. Submit incomplete petition

Spring Quarter: Writing up results and conclusions and revising and polishing

1. Meet with Prof Pulver to go over thesis plan for spring quarter
2. Write Chapters 4-??, your results and conclusion chapters
3. Revise Chapter 1
4. Submit a full draft of thesis to research advisor and Prof Pulver
5. Make final revisions of draft based on advisor feedback
6. Complete thesis front material (title page, abstract, acknowledgements, table of contents, list of figures, list of tables)
7. Submit final bound copy to research advisor and to ES Program Office
8. Present research findings in ENVS Senior Thesis Conference (ppt presentation)