

**ENVS 197**

# **Senior Thesis**

**Fall 2018- Spring 2019**

**During Fall quarter, we meet as a class on Mondays, 2:00 – 4:20 pm.**

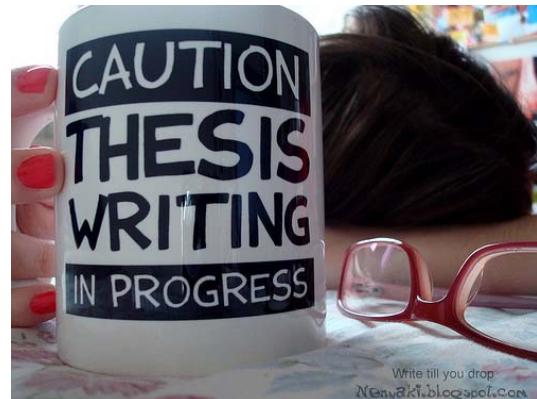
**During Winter and Spring quarters, you work independently.**

**Professor Simone Pulver**

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**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm**

**Bren Hall, Floor 4L, Rm 4001**



### **Course description**

This seminar is designed to provide structure, guidance, and support for Environmental Studies majors in the research and writing of a senior thesis. The course guides you through the process of conceptualizing and completing a research project. The focus is on: 1) identifying a significant research problem and specifying an appropriate research question to address it; 2) thinking critically about the work of other scholars in relation to your research question; 3) making good choices regarding research design and evidence; 4) developing coherent arguments, analysis and assessment; and 5) developing skills in constructive criticism, formal academic writing, and research presentations. 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 should plan to focus on writing up Chapter 3 - Background and on data collection and data analysis. Finally, during Spring Quarter, you will write the remaining chapters (Chapters 4 to 6 or so), presenting the results of your research and your conclusions. The final version of your senior thesis is due Week 7 of Spring quarter, and you will have the opportunity to publicly present your research results during the ES Senior Thesis Presentations in Week 9 of Spring quarter.

**Fall Quarter: Formulating your research**

Week 1	Introduction – What is a senior thesis in ES?
Week 2	Formulating a researchable question – What is your question?
Week 3	Literature Review I - What have other people said about your question?
Week 4	Literature Review II - Progress report
Week 5	Research Design I - Logics of inquiry
Week 6	Research Design II - Collecting data
Week 7	Putting it all together
Week 8	Presentations and Peer Review I
Week 9	Presentations and Peer Review II
Week 10	Presentations and Peer Review III
Final Exam	Planning next steps – Where do you go from here? Chapters 1 and 2 DUE

**Winter Quarter: Write up background/context (Chapter 3)  
Data collection and data analysis****Spring Quarter: Write up results and conclusions (Chapters 4 - 6 or so)  
Submit complete senior thesis (Week 7)  
Senior Thesis Presentations (Week 9)**