

**ANTH 284 Masters Thesis Writing Practicum
Fall 2018 Syllabus**

Prof. Nancy Postero, facilitator

This is a small seminar for those writing their MA theses in Anthropology. Each student will be developing the content of their thesis with their particular adviser; therefore this class will focus on the process and goals of writing the thesis. We will be working as a cohort, relying on peer review and support to help each thesis writer accomplish their goals for the quarter.

We bring together students of various subdisciplines, so we will be comparing the differing methodologies and writing styles across our field, understanding that students will be producing very different sorts of theses according to their field and the agreements they have made with their advisers. This diversity is extremely productive as you will all have to understand the methods and publication genres of your colleagues as you proceed in your academic careers.

I will have a set of resources on the TED site. Please add to them, and share whatever other materials you find helpful in terms of writing, scheduling, or making the best of the life of the writer.

October 1, 2018: Class 1: Introductions: What is a Thesis? Scheduling your Time and Working with your Advisor

1. https://www.postgrad.com/advice/exams/examinations_examiners_supervisors/get_the_most_from_your_postgraduate_supervisor/
2. MUST Best Practices Guide
3. Kreikemeyer & Schneider Guide
4. <https://christinescottcheng.wordpress.com/teaching/choosing-a-research-question-for-your-ma-thesis/>
5. How to Survive your Thesis: <https://eurocultur.eu/2013/11/17/how-to-survive-your-ma-thesis/>

October 8, 2018: Class 2: What makes a good thesis? Subdisciplinary Focus:

Reporting on a successful thesis in your sub-discipline: Each student will find and read a successful MA thesis or article to help them evaluate what makes a good thesis. How are they organized? What are the goals? What are the common styles/genres? What are the challenges of these styles? How might you use, adapt, or challenge the genre?

1. http://www.openculture.com/2011/04/the_shape_of_a_story_writing_tips_from_kurt_vonnegut.html

October 15, 2018: Class 3: Proposal: Write a 2 page proposal of the thesis, share with cohort in class, and then submit to Adviser. This assignment forces you to focus your topic and argument.

1. TATP Thesis statement handout

October 22, 2018: Class 4: Literature Reviews and Theoretical Arguments:

How to put your work in dialogue with existing scholarship and make a unique argument.

1. MUST Best Practices guide
2. <https://medium.com/advice-and-help-in-authoring-a-phd-or-non-fiction/doing-a-quick-literature-review-f94700f947ce#.f2s6j784u>
3. SED Guide
4. Mackintosh Anthro MA guide
5. <http://www.monash.edu.au/lis/llonline/writing/general/lit-reviews/index.xml>

October 29, 2018: Class 5: Outline of Thesis: Write a detailed outline of the thesis, with a schedule for accomplishing it. What work will each section/chapter do for the overarching argument? Is this doable?

November 5, 2018: Class 6: Academic Writing, Avoiding Plagiarism, Bibliographies:

Looking at some of the nuts and bolt of the process.

1. <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>
2. https://www.postgrad.com/advice/phd/dos_and_donts_of_academic_writing/
3. MUST Best Practices Guide.
4. Intros and Conclusions Guide
5. Writing Chapter One guide, <http://dissertationwriting.com/introduction-chapter-writing/>

November 12 and 19, 2018: Class 7 and 8: Peer Reviews of Ongoing work:

Sharing your work with one other member of the class, reviewing and editing each other's work

November 26, 2018: Class 9: no class: WRITE!!!!

December 3, 2018: Class 10: Conclusions and abstracts: Be prepared to give a 10 minute presentation on your conclusions.

Deadline to Turn in the First Full Draft: first day of Winter Quarter.