A Guide to Honours 2018

Department of Anthropology
School of Social and Political Sciences
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Honours Coordinator

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A Preliminary Note on Application and Enrolment

All potential applicants for Honours may find advice about eligibility and the application process and timeline at:
http://sydney.edu.au/arts/current_students/undergraduate/honours.shtml#howt

Applicants for entry into Honours will be notified of the result of their application by the Faculty. Successful applicants who choose to take up the offer should then enrol as advised by the Faculty Office. Full-time students shall enrol in four units, ANTH4101, ANTH4102 and ANTH4103 in Semester 1 and ANTH4104 in Semester 2.

All enrolled Honours students should familiarise themselves with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2014 Honours Provisions:
I. INTRODUCTION

The Structure of the Honours Year

The Honours year has three aspects:

- In Semester 1, students complete two seminars that address key theoretical complexes in the discipline of Anthropology. Assessment for each of those seminars is worth 20% of the final honours mark.
- Throughout the year students develop a research project in consultation with a supervisor that culminates in a thesis of 18,000 – 20,000 words worth 60% of the final honours mark.
- Thesis Writing Workshop - held throughout the year to support the thesis writing process

Purpose of Honours

The Honours year is a preparation for further research and project work in a variety of contexts, including higher degree research, employment with research teams working on large scale projects, and any employment that involves independent and innovative thought, critical analysis and synthesis of materials, theoretical skills, and high standards of written and oral communication.

Students are expected to bring an open-minded disposition to explore different approaches to anthropology, a willingness to explore a range of different sources, and the ability to show initiative in locating new sources. They are expected to develop an understanding of how to serve as part of a professional and collegial community of scholars, furthering the discipline of anthropology and the many fields and activities with which it engages.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Honours year, students should be able to:

- apply research skills in identifying relevant literature and evaluating sources in fields of anthropological research
- demonstrate a capacity to develop a research problem in conjunction with a supervisor
- demonstrate a higher level of appreciation of disciplinary based theory, method and ethnographic analysis
- apply specific and advanced academic writing skills used in anthropological research, including research proposal, literature review of theory and ethnography, and the integration of empirical description with sustained conceptual analysis
- independently develop and manage larger research and writing projects
- apply skills in sustained time management of a larger project over a longer period of time
- demonstrate an advanced capacity to identify and develop a personal profile of scholarly interests, analytic talents and ethical commitments
- develop a preliminary proposal for a PhD research project

Marks

The Department and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences regard the Honours year as a single, unified program. Consequently, while Honours students receive marks on the written assignments in their seminars in Semester 1, they receive only one overall grade for Honours on their academic transcript at the end of the Semester 2.
Late Work and Extensions

The development of time and work management skills is an essential aspect of the Honours year and late submission of work and application for extensions are discouraged. In particular, a thesis is a long-distance event, not a sprint, and an illness that prevents you from working all through the nights in the last week is highly unlikely to be accepted as grounds for extension. The bar for an extension is also much higher than it is for other undergraduate assessments.

Students can apply for special consideration for serious illness or misadventure but an application does not guarantee it will be granted. Requests for special consideration must be made in writing to the Honours Coordinator at the earliest possible date and before the relevant submission dates. If the work involves a seminar, you should email your request to the Honours Coordinator AND copy the seminar coordinator into your email. Special Consideration applications must be accompanied by valid documentary support. Late penalties apply from the day after the published due date with two marks (out of 100) per day.

II. Anthropology Honours Timeline

Semester 1:

Week 1: The two Honours coursework seminars commence. See page 17.
Week 2: The Thesis Writing Workshop convenes on Wednesday March 14, 3-5pm in RC Mills Room 148, and continues throughout semesters 1 and 2.
Week 3: Final confirmation on supervisor and broad area of thesis topic. Please submit a paragraph via Turnitin on the 2018 Anthropology Honours LMS site by end of Tuesday March 20.
Week 5: Outline of thesis research problem (max 250 words) and a working bibliography of references that indicate the profile and viability of the project. Please submit via Turnitin on Anthropology Honours LMS site by end of Thursday April 12.
Week 13: Coursework seminars finish.

Semester 2:

Week 1: Thesis Writing Workshop reconvenes Wednesday August 1, 2-4 pm in RC Mills Room 148. It will run weekly until thesis submission with focus on reviewing, revising and editing chapter text.
Week 9: Friday October 5: Students are strongly encouraged to have a complete draft of the thesis for their supervisor by Friday October 5, at the latest.
Week 13: Thesis Due Date: Monday October 29. Four hard copies to be submitted to the Honours Coordinator or School Office (closes 4pm). An electronic copy to be submitted via Turnitin on the Anthropology Honours LMS site by 11.59 pm.
Honours Examination Committee meets: Friday November 9

Anthropology Department Seminar Series

Honours students are expected to attend the Anthropology Research Seminars series, held most Thursdays 3-5 pm in RC Mills Room 148.

Presented by scholars from the department and other institutions in Australia and beyond, the seminars cover a diverse range of topics in anthropology and related fields. The seminars provide an opportunity for you to broaden your experience and understanding of anthropological problems and approaches by engaging with academics who present papers on their current research. Honours students are especially welcome to meet the presenters and enjoy conviviality in the form of further intellectual ruminations as well as free drinks and nibbles after the seminars.
III. THE HONOURS SEMINARS

In the two coursework seminars you will further develop your disciplinary training. They are explicitly designed to complement each other as well as the work you did in the two Honours prerequisite units of study, ANTH3601 Contemporary Theory and Anthropology and ANTH3602 Reading Ethnography. ANTH3601 links a critical examination of key concepts in the development of the discipline to an appreciation of its distinctive method. ANTH3602 addresses the vital choices made in the re-presenting and structuring of empirical data in ethnographic analysis, and how anthropological debate, construction of argument and comparative analysis are contextualised by regional (‘culture areas’) ethnographic literatures and thematic literatures.

The two Honours coursework seminars focus on two domains of social theory that are central to understanding the history and contemporary profile of the discipline, and which speak to contrasting visions of the human condition. The seminars explore a sense of discipline, not as synthetic but rather as in tension.

Honours Seminar ANTH4101: Theorising the State in Everyday Life

This class is an upper-level introduction to some of the classic theoretical and ethnographic literature in political anthropology, focusing on the study of “power” in research on states and nationalism. Objectives include:

- Understand the concept of “theory” in the social sciences and explicitly connect social theory and ethnographic writing;
- Develop the ability to understand, assess, and compare different theoretical approaches to similar topics/questions;
- Understand the ways that anthropologists, political scientists, and political theorists have approached the questions of state power and nationalism;
- Gain solid exposure to some of the most influential writing in anthropology about nations and states and a capacity to critically assess the study of state power and nationalism;

Assessment: Assignments totalling 6000 words.

Honours Seminar ANTH4102: Anthropology of Mind and Experience

The course explores Levi-Strauss’ work in the light of existential phenomenological and psychoanalytic critiques. It provides a basis for the understanding of anthropology in the context of current Western philosophical/scientific thought. Levi-Strauss’ opus is a veritable watershed of both the 20th century anthropological thought and of the Western critical thought in general. His structural anthropology articulates all the contradictory dynamics of modern anthropology by bringing into original intellectual synthesis vast ethnographic evidence and theoretical insights. His thought exemplifies the vicissitudes, uniqueness, and limitations of the Western intellectual tradition presently in the process of derailment. Within the framework of the Honours programme this course enables the students to deepen their critical knowledge of anthropological theory and the importance of the comparative understanding in relation to the practice of ethnography (which Levi-Strauss thought to contain “the principle of all research”). It will also stimulate the development of their library research skills and experience in formulating their thesis project

Assessment: Written work, totalling 6000 words.
IV. THE THESIS PROCESS

Academic Staff Research Fields and Availability
Prospective Honours students may find details on academic staff availability for supervision and links to staff research profiles at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/anthropology/staff/academic.shtml
As much as we can, we allow the choice of supervisor to emerge from students’ preliminary discussions with potential supervisors with relevant expertise and research interests. In the end, however, factors such as staff availability and workload require that final allocation of your supervisor must be done by the Honours Coordinator in consultation with the Chair of Department.

Supervision
Each supervisory relationship tends to develop its own distinctive pattern depending on the working styles of supervisor and student and the specific nature of the project. Nevertheless, the workloads of both staff and students mean that sessions will be scheduled and limited in length. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Supervision Code of Practice sets out the responsibilities of departments, students and supervisors. See http://sydney.edu.au/arts/downloads/documents/policy/Honours_Supervision_Code_Practice.pdf
Students are expected to be familiar with this code as a starting point in developing an effective supervisory process. Generally speaking, as the year goes by, it will be more and more the case that written work is the most effective way to get a precise and useful response from your supervisor. Also, the more you as a student know what you want from a session, the more useful it is likely to be. Having said that, it is also the case that at some stage you are likely to be stuck, ‘blocked’ and confused. This is NOT the time to avoid your supervisor; it is precisely the time to insist on seeing them!

Developing a Topic
The Honours thesis is based on a research program that is ultimately driven by the interests, strategies and capacities of each student. This is the context in which you are expected to explore your own distinctive relationship to the discipline through developing your own research problems, rather than solving problems that are set for you. With this in mind, we encourage students to begin exploratory discussions on possible topics with potential supervisors as early as possible.
In developing a topic, two important criteria in the examination of the thesis should be born in mind. These are that the thesis be built around a problem that can:

- be clearly located in contemporary and/or past understandings of the discipline of cultural and social anthropology
- be framed in relation to a distinctive field of anthropological literature in both its ethnographic and theoretical terms. We recognize that the discipline draws on a broad range of social theory and philosophy, but your thesis should recognize the distinctive way in which such theorising is applied in ethnographically based analysis and as part of ongoing anthropological conceptual debates.

There is a range of ways in which you will be guided in developing a broader as well as more specific research questions. The primary avenue will be your conversations with your supervisor. However, you should recognize that there are other reference points that you can take advantage of:

- the disciplinary training of your major, the Honours prerequisite units of study, and the Honours seminars;
• the feedback from your epitome presentation;
• the thesis writing workshop;
• discussion more broadly with members of the anthropology academic staff.

Honour Thesis Ethics Proposal
For most students whose projects have a library basis, ethics clearance is not an issue. If you are contemplating research involving human subjects it must be done in close consultation with your supervisor.
Honours projects that include research involving human subjects must be granted Ethics Approval. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences operates an Ethics Committee, comprising representatives from all four Schools, and which is constituted as a low-risk approvals committee by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee. See information at: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/current_students/undergraduate/honours_thesis_ethic.shtml
We emphasise that projects that propose empirical research with human subjects will only be accepted with a supervisor’s full commitment and approval and that consultation with your supervisor should begin as early as possible.

Thesis Outline and Bibliography
By Thursday April 12 (Week 5 of Semester 1), after working with your supervisor, you are required to submit an outline of your thesis question (max 250 words) with a working bibliography of references that indicate the empirical and theoretical profile and viability of the thesis project. You should submit this through the relevant Turnitin dropbox on the 2018 Anthropology Honours LMS site. While a project proposal at this stage of the year will be provisional it is important that you establish that your thesis will draw on a substantial and diverse empirical literature with a strong foundation in the discipline. In theoretical terms, the more your thesis can work off established or developing debates in the discipline, the better.

Time and Writing Management
You will have already established techniques for managing your time and writing, and in the Honours year you should build on your established sense of what works for you. However, there are some distinctive features of the Honours year that you need to bear in mind. Generally these relate to the character of the thesis as a research project and as a writing project on a scale and level of complexity that you have not so far attempted.

• **Time Management.** During Semester 1 you will have to balance the more immediate reading and assessment demands of the two coursework seminars with the longer term management of developing the research project on which your thesis will be based. The seminars will require a significant amount of reading and will also be intellectually challenging. Nevertheless, laying the foundation for your thesis will still require a regular 10–15 hours per week of your time. Regular meetings with your supervisor (one hour per fortnight would be the norm in first semester), and the Thesis Writing Workshop, will help you to structure this time with appropriate goals, deadlines and writing tasks.

• **Writing Management:** From the end of Semester 1, the problem is almost the opposite. Now there is only the thesis writing. Rather than making time for thesis research you have to structure the process of actually writing the thesis. The important thing to understand is that writing a 20,000 word thesis is a very different task from writing a 4000 word essay. Most students do not know the final shape of their thesis before they start writing, and for many the thesis winds up with a very different shape from what they had imagined at the start. While this can be an idiosyncratic process, and supervisory relationships are specific both to the personalities of supervisor and student and the
nature of the project, the most productive feedback you will get in this process of discovery is from detailed written work.

In Honours you should come to appreciate writing not simply as the finished form of a piece of work, but as part of the dialogue and conceptual development through which it is constructed. While your relationship with your supervisor is the most important part of this process, the weekly Thesis Writing Workshop will also provide ongoing support in semester 2 with focus on critically reviewing, editing and discussing your draft theses texts.

**Epitomes**
The Department of Anthropology ‘Epitomes’ is a long-standing tradition of the department. It is a whole-day forum in which students orally present thesis proposals to Honours and postgraduate students and academic staff of the Department. Your presentations should be about 20 minutes in length, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Your presentation should indicate:

- the problem to be investigated;
- possible lines of argument;
- a sketch of the empirical sources and literature;
- a sketch of the relevant disciplinary debates.

The aims of the Epitomes are:

- development of academic oral presentation skills;
- to provide a deadline and a forum to help you define a clear thesis problem/question;
- to ‘advertise’ your project to the academics in the department and put student and supervisor in touch with a broader range of suggestions about possible relevant lines of investigation and literature;
- to provide an opportunity for the students to be proactive about what they might want/need in the way of input on their project.

You will discuss the nature of the Epitomes further with supervisors and in the Thesis Writing Workshop. In 2018 the Epitomes will be held on Tuesday June 19.

**Past theses**
Copies of past Honours theses can be borrowed from the School Office in the lower level of the RC Mills Building and more recent theses can be requested in electronic copies from the Honours Coordinator. You must leave your student card with the office while you borrow a thesis. For electronic theses, please remember that these are to be used for your own study purposes and cannot be further circulated without the permission of the author. We are developing an eRepository of Honours theses, which is one reason you need to submit your thesis electronically through the LMS site. You will need to consent to this and will receive a copyright permission form and information at the end of the year to allow you to make an informed decision.
V. THESIS WRITING WORKSHOP

The aim of the Thesis Writing Workshop is to support you in a structured and collegial way in all aspects of the thesis research and writing process, because it is distinctly different from the essay writing you experienced in you Bachelor degree study.

The first 2 hour session will be held by Honours Coordinator Dr Åse Ottosson Wednesday March 14, 3-5 pm in RC Mills Seminar Room 148. Please make sure to attend the first session when we will go through the year in detail, and when you will also get to know about each other’s projects.

RC Mills Seminar Room 148 will be your meeting point every Wednesday at this time for the rest of Semester 1. Some weeks, Dr Ottosson will deliver structured workshop sessions on particular aspects of research and thesis writing processes. Other weeks, you, as the Honours group, will be expected to run the workshop on topics and themes that emerge as important in your thesis research and writing. That is, there will be ample room for your active input in shaping the workshop agenda, based on your needs and suggestions.

During Semester 1, the focus of the more structured workshop sessions will include:

- Time and writing management;
- How to write the 250 word research outline;
- How to narrow your topic down;
- How to read and take notes efficiently;
- How to structure and begin to write a Thesis;
- Preparing the Epitomes presentations.

For the student-led sessions, topics in the past have, among many others, included:

- How to find literature and how to manage your growing bibliography;
- General writing hints, tips, and rules (from using Endnote to choosing fonts);
- Generating TOCs and Lists of Tables and Figures in Word;
- How to structure an argument / a thesis;
- Learning the ropes of reviewing and editing chapter text;
- Referencing systems.

Towards the end of Semester 1, and once your seminar tasks are completed, the main aim of the Thesis Writing Workshop is to get you started on writing your thesis.

The Thesis Writing Workshop will reconvene in Week 1, Semester 2, on Wednesday August 1, 2-4 pm in RC Mills Room 148. It will continue weekly at this weekday and time until you submit your theses. The sole focus will now be on reviewing, revising and editing your draft chapter text. Closer to the submission date, we will increasingly focus on the details of formatting, referencing, writing abstracts and proof reading.

The main aims of the Workshop in Semester 2 are:

- to develop critical engagement with writing as an intellectual and practical process
- to develop your capacity to identify and refine key points of argument in your own writing, based on the empirical evidence you present in the theses
- to develop your capacity to attend to the finer details of writing, editing and revising your own and others’ academic writing
VI. THESIS GUIDELINES

Thesis Submission
Four (4) hard copies of the thesis are to be submitted to the Honours Coordinator, or the School office (closes 4pm), at the latest Monday October 29, 2018. An electronic copy in pdf-format must also to be submitted via the relevant Turnitin dropbox on the 2018 Anthropology Honours LMS site.

Word Length
The thesis should be 18,000 – 20,000 words long. Please make sure that your thesis is within this range before submitting! That is, 20,000 words is the absolute maximum word length.
The word count of the thesis does not include (a) footnotes (b) reference list (c) appendices (d) abstract. This is not a license to move information into notes and appendices! Appendices should only be included where there is clear justification. Footnotes should be used appropriately and with discretion. Please remember that anthropology uses in-text referencing (not foot or end note references).

Style
The Department of Anthropology strongly recommends that you acquire a style manual as a guide to all those interesting questions like: Should I spell out numbers or give them in numeral form? When should a word be capitalised or not? Should the full stop come before or after a quotation mark? etc, etc.
The international benchmark reference is the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The Australian Government *Style Manual: For Authors, Editors and Printers* is also a good guide. Remember that whatever guide you choose, consistency of usage and practice throughout a document is a fundamental principle.

Thesis Layout
1. Min 2.5 cm margins
2. Font size equivalent to Times New Roman 12. Use a single font consistently throughout the thesis unless there are clear justifications in terms of layout and presentation for doing otherwise. Footnotes should use a smaller font that is still legible.
3. Line spacing 1.5
4. Paragraph spacing 2.5 lines
5. Quotes of more than 20 words indented with no quotation marks
6. Default quotation marks should be singles
7. Sub-headings within chapters should be bold font
8. Sub-sub-headings, if used, should be distinguished using *italics*
9. Footnotes - please use sparingly
10. The hard copy version can be printed on both or one side of the pages.

Referencing
A few different referencing systems are used in the discipline of Anthropology but we mostly use variations of in-text referencing styles, which is what you should use for your thesis. It simply means that you refer to your sources in the running text by including within brackets the author’s name, year of publication, and when quoting or closely paraphrasing, page(s). You shall use the ‘References’ section at the end of the thesis to provide full citations. You should not reference with citations in footnotes or endnotes. We will discuss different referencing systems and details in the Thesis Writing Workshop, but the fundamental principle to follow is to be consistent with the one referencing style throughout your thesis.
Abstract
Your thesis must include an abstract of 150 - 200 words. The purpose of the abstract is to convey to a potential reader the main argument, substantive themes and theoretical profile of the thesis. Abstracts are important parts of academic works and you should spend some time on carefully formulating it. Remember that the abstract is the readers’ first impression of, and introduction to, the content, concepts and ideas of you thesis, and thus shapes their expectations. It should not be a mere summary, but needs to be to the point and accurately reflect the main empirical and conceptual points of the complete thesis.

Front Pages
The thesis should open on separate pages with (1) Title Page; (2) Academic Honesty Statement; (3) Abstract; (4) Table of Contents; and if relevant, (5) Table of Illustrations or/and Acronyms. Page numbering proper begins with the first page of the actual thesis text. A model of the title page and the Academic Honesty Statement are provided below.

Please remember to sign the Academic Honesty Statement in the hard copies.

[FULL THESIS TITLE]

[FULL NAME]

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Department of Anthropology
School of Social and Political Sciences
University of Sydney

[YEAR OF SUBMISSION]

STUDENT PLAGIARISM POLICY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT


I certify that:
1. I have read and understood the University of Sydney Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism in Coursework Procedures 2010, and Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2015
2. I understand that failure to comply with the Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism in Coursework Procedures 2010 can lead to the University commencing proceedings against me for potential student misconduct under Chapter 8 of the University of Sydney By-Law 1999 (as amended);
3. This work is substantially my own, and to the extent that any part of this work is not my own I have indicated that it is not my own by acknowledging the Source of that part or those parts of the work.

Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________
VII. HONOURS GRADING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The information on Honours grading consists of four sections:

1. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences policy on the Interpretation of Grades and Medals
2. An overview of the criteria used in the assessment of Honours coursework and thesis that interpret the Faculty generic criteria from the point of view of teaching in the Department of Anthropology
3. A more detailed set of criteria that should be taken into account in the assessment of a thesis in the Department of Anthropology
4. Concluding note on grades

1. Interpretation of Grades and Medals: Grade Descriptors for Honours in Arts

(Endorsed by the Faculty Board on 8 November 2010)

Please note: These grade descriptors apply to all Honours assessments, coursework as well as theses. These descriptors are broad indices. They are not intended to replace, but rather complement Departmental statements on marking criteria.

80-100: First Class (I)

90+

Work demonstrating the highest levels of accomplishment and intellectual autonomy that can be expected from an undergraduate student. An overall Honours mark of 90 or higher is a requirement for the award of a University Medal, though Medals are not automatically awarded to students with overall results of 90 or more.

In many fields of the humanities and social sciences, a mark in this range indicates substantial and innovative research; wide and deep reading in the scholarly literature; sophisticated, perceptive, and original interpretations of data, documentary evidence, fieldwork, literary texts, or works of art; and a very high level of independent thought and argument.

A mark in this range indicates an excellent level of grammatical accuracy, syntactical sophistication, and nuance in use of vocabulary and register.

85-89

Work that demonstrates a very high level of proficiency in the methodologies, subject matter, and modes of expression and argumentation appropriate to the field or fields studied. Work in this range shows strong promise for doctoral study.

In many fields of the humanities and social sciences, a mark in this range indicates substantial original research; wide and deep reading in the scholarly literature; a very high level of skill in interpreting data, documentary evidence, fieldwork, literary texts, or works of art; and a high level of independent thought.

A mark in this range indicates a very high level of grammatical accuracy with only some mistakes, as well as syntactical sophistication, and nuance in use of vocabulary and register.
80-84
Work that demonstrates a high level of proficiency in the methodologies, subject matter, and modes of expression and argumentation appropriate to the field or fields studied, and shows potential for doctoral study.

In many fields of the humanities and social sciences, a mark in this range can indicate thorough research; a firm grasp of the relevant scholarly literature; and a high level of skill in interpreting data, documentary evidence, fieldwork, literary texts, or works of art.

A mark in this range indicates a very high level of grammatical accuracy with few mistakes and only very rare basic errors, with vocabulary and syntax varied and expression highly coherent and well structured.

75-79: Second Class, First Division (II.1)
Work that demonstrates a generally sound knowledge of the methodologies, subject matter, and modes of expression and argumentation appropriate to the field or fields studied.

In many fields of the humanities and social sciences, a mark in this range can indicate solid research; a firm grasp of the relevant scholarly literature; and competent interpretations of data, documentary evidence, fieldwork, literary texts, or works of art. However, work in this range may also show evidence of a higher level of independent thought combined with some significant lapses in research or expression.

A mark in this range indicates a high standard of grammatical accuracy with few mistakes and only very rare basic errors, with vocabulary and syntax varied and expression highly coherent and well structured.

70-74: Second Class, Second Division (II.2)
Work that demonstrates an adequate but limited performance in the methodologies, subjects, and/or languages studied.

In many fields of the humanities and social sciences, a mark in this range can indicate an adequate general knowledge of the subject from the reading of both primary material and secondary literature, straightforward argumentation, and clear expression. A mark in this range may also reflect a superior performance in one or more of these areas combined with serious lapses in others.

A mark in this range indicates a good standard of grammatical accuracy, albeit with some mistakes, including occasional basic ones; the work shows a good grasp of complex sentence structures and an appropriately varied vocabulary.

65-69: Third Class (III)
Work only barely above the standard of pass-degree work in the field studied. A mark in this range indicates a basic but limited understanding of the methodologies and subject matter of the field or fields studied, and skills in argument and expression that are only just adequate for Honours-level study and research.

Below 65%
Honours not awarded.
2. Honours Grading Guidelines - Department of Anthropology

The following guides to grading in Honours course and thesis work are based on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences guidelines. They have been complemented to address specificities of the discipline of Anthropology.

It is assumed that there is a qualitative difference between a student's work in Honours, and work submitted for a Pass degree.

Honours students are expected to have achieved the following:

- good specialist knowledge of the chosen subject, which may involve specific technical components;
- a good general understanding of the theoretical bases of the discipline;
- appropriate knowledge of any ancillary requirements, e.g. knowledge of specific languages, research methodology, field work;
- ability to undertake and carry through one or more sustained research projects;
- ability to achieve a high level of written expression and documentation in these and other assessment tasks

Specific to Anthropology:

- a capacity to apply discourses/styles conventional to anthropological and ethnographic writing;
- an ability to develop a sustained, empirically/ethnographically informed analysis;
- a capacity to position the scholarly argument of the thesis within ongoing debates in the discipline of anthropology;
- a developed understanding of what the discipline of anthropology brings to the topic/analysis in question.

3. Detailed Assessment Criteria for Anthropology Theses

Problem and Argument

A thesis in anthropology should

- Be built around a well-defined conceptual and empirical problem that can be clearly located in contemporary and/or past understandings of the discipline of social and cultural anthropology
- Be built around a distinctively anthropological literature in both its ethnographic and theoretical terms. We acknowledge that the discipline draws on a broad range of social theory and philosophy but the thesis should recognise the distinctive way in which that theorising has been used for anthropological purposes in relation to empirical data
- Clearly develop and state a thesis (argument), informed by the empirical evidence presented
- Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the thesis topic in terms of where it sits in the discipline of anthropology as a whole
- Develop appropriate dialogue between ethnographic material and anthropologically inflected forms of theorising
- Incorporate into the development of the argument an awareness of literature relevant to the specific field(s) of interest within which the thesis is located
- Incorporate into the development of the thesis a recognition of debates and counter-arguments where relevant
Quality of Anthropological Knowledge

Quality of empirical data and analysis
- an appropriate depth and breadth of relevant empirical data used for the analysis
- a well-integrated analysis emphasising the empirical/ethnographic data presented
- empirical/ethnographic material underpinning the building of a coherent and consistent conceptual logic throughout the thesis

Quality of literature used
- an appropriate quantity and breadth of relevant scholarly articles and books have been consulted, reflecting a range of perspectives
- key authors and texts in the field of research have been identified and consulted
- literature used demonstrate an awareness of the range of disciplinary publication

Interpretation of literature
- clearly understands the arguments and empirical/theoretical context of the literature used
- draws on the literature appropriately and economically in the development of the argument
- recognises the points of convergence and difference between conceptual approaches and empirical data in the literature
- draws on the connections between key literature to develop the thesis argument
- a capacity to read ethnographic sources against the grain of their argument where appropriate

Quality of Written Expression and Referencing

Clarity of writing
- sentences flow seamlessly without redundancy or repetition
- appropriate and varied use of vocabulary
- correct use of grammar to proper logical effect
- original and engaging academic/ethnographic style of writing

Logical structure of argument
- each paragraph is in sequence and has a clear and specific point
- paragraphs flow seamlessly in support of the argument
- connections between points are implicitly or explicitly drawn

Referencing
- consistent use of in-text referencing style throughout the thesis
- all sources and foundations of argument clearly identified with referencing
- quotations exactly as in source and accurately referenced with page
- all, and only, sources referred to in-text correctly cited in full in alphabetical order in list of References

4. Concluding Note on Grades

Please also note that the Faculty interpretation of grades is built around the following criteria, in which d) and e) are necessary criteria that must be met to qualify for anthropology Honours, and a), b) and c) are most relevant to the distinction between first, second and third class Honours and to the finer discriminations of marks within the Honours 1 range.

a. originality
b. independence of thought
c. sophistication of expression and argument
d. understanding of a field
e. competence in the identification of sources and relevant arguments
VIII. DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY THESIS EXAMINATION POLICY

The Honours Coordinator shall convene a meeting of the Department of Anthropology Honours Examination Board during the Semester 2 Examination period, taking account of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences deadlines for the submission of final Honours results. The following policy and procedure shall be followed:

1) Two examiners and one further mandatory reader appointed for each thesis. The supervisor of the thesis should be neither an examiner nor a reader.

2) A proposal on examiners and readers to be put together by the Honours Coordinator in consultation with the Chair of Department and circulated for comment to all supervisors by the end of third week of September. The proposal should have an eye to finding at least one examiner with expertise in the topical area of the thesis but it should be recognised that this cannot be guaranteed.

3) Recognising the specific balance of emphasis required by different theses, reports should nevertheless address the departmental examination criteria. Reports will be circulated to students at the conclusion of the examination process.

4) Examiners will determine initial evaluations and marking of the thesis independently and both the reports and the marks will be submitted to the Honours Coordinator at least one day before the examiner’s meeting and will be circulated to all participants in the examiners meeting.

5) During the examiner’s meeting examiners have the option of amending their marks in response to discussion of the thesis, and of their own reports, by other examiners and readers.

6) A thesis result may be finalised by averaging the two examiners’ marks when (a) any two marks are no more than 7 percentage points apart (b) when any two marks are not separated by more than one grade boundary.

7) In the case in which examiners are unable to modify their marks to meet these conditions the thesis should be sent to a third examiner appointed by the Chair of Department for assessment.

8) All discussions at the Departmental Honours Examination Board are confidential.

Student access to reports and marks

1) Honours candidates shall normally have access to the examiners’ reports after the finalisation of results at the Departmental Honours Examination Board.

2) These reports may be amended by the examiners as a result of discussion at the examination meeting, prior to dissemination to students.

3) All reports shall be disseminated to students by the Honours Coordinator only.

4) Final thesis marks and final overall Honours marks may be made available to students by the Honours Coordinator. No marks, initial or amended, of individual examiners’ reports on the thesis, may be made available to students.

5) Students are encouraged to discuss their thesis reports with individual examiners if they wish to obtain further feedback on their work.

Appeals

All appeals on Honours results should be directed to the Honours Coordinator. The grounds for appeal are limited. The Coordinator, in consultation with the Chair of Department, will determine whether an appeal will be accepted or rejected, and if accepted, the procedure to be followed. Relevant forms and further information on appeal of academic decisions can be found at http://sydney.edu.au/policies/showdoc.aspx?recnum=PD0C2012/253&RendNum=0
IX. HONOURS SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS TIMETABLE 2018

Honours Seminar ANTH4101:
  Semester 1: Thursday 12 - 2 pm, RC Mills Seminar Room 148

Honours Seminar ANTH4102:
  Semester 1: Tuesday 12 - 2 pm, Carslaw Room 353

Thesis Writing Workshop
  Semester 1: Wednesday 3 - 5 pm from Week 2, RC Mills Room 148
  Semester 2: Wednesday 2 - 4 pm, RC Mills Room 148

Honours students are also expected to attend the Anthropology Research Seminars most Thursdays 3–5 pm during semesters in RC Mills Seminar Room 148. You are especially welcome at the drinks afterwards!

You can receive email reminders that outline the abstract and presenter of the seminars each week. Just joining the list at the right hand side of the seminar page: http://sydney.edu.au/arts/anthropology/about/seminars.shtml
X. Honours Scholarships and Prizes

The University of Sydney is offering about fifty Honours Scholarships each year, currently valued at $6,000 each. Further information is available at: http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/current/honours_scholarships.shtml

There are two prizes for Honours awarded by the Department of Anthropology Honours Examination Board. These are:

**RICHARD B. DAVIS PRIZE FOR ASIAN ANTHROPOLOGY**
This prize was established in 1982 by an endowment of $1,000 by the Trustees of the Richard B Davis Memorial Fund in memory of Dr Richard B Davis who completed his PhD Degree at the University of Sydney in 1974 and died in 1981. The prize is awarded annually, on the recommendation of the Chair of Department, for the best thesis submitted by a candidate in the Honours year in the Department of Anthropology, provided the candidate’s work is of sufficient merit.

**PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY HONOURS**
Honours students in Anthropology undertake a demanding course of study, comprising both coursework and a supervised thesis of 20,000 words. In 2009, the Department of Anthropology established an annual prize for Anthropology Honours to recognise scholarship of an outstanding standard in the Honours year. A high standard of achievement qualifies students to progress to higher research degrees in the discipline.

Prizes winners are published in the Sydney Morning Herald in December each year. There is a School Prizes Award Ceremony in April/May of the following year.