

**The Department of African American Studies  
Honors Thesis Format**

1. The cover sheet should be set up in the following manner:

**(Title of Thesis)  
by  
(Author's Name)  
Presented as the Honors Thesis  
In Partial Fulfillment  
Of Requirements for  
the Bachelor's Degree  
in  
African American Studies  
University of California, Berkeley  
(Date)**

**Student's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Major Thesis Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed)**

**Signature of Major Thesis Adviser: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name of Departmental Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed)**

**Signature of Departmental Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

2. The second page should be blank.
3. The third page should give the title of the thesis and the author's name.
4. The fourth page should read "Table of Contents" and should list in proper sequence the chapter or section titles and the pages on which the chapters or sections should begin. These sections will include your introduction and conclusion.
5. The next page should also be blank.

6. The remainder of the thesis will proceed as suggested by the following outline:
  - a. General Introduction and Background**

This section should contain discussion of the significance of the research and where relevant the background to the problem researched, and empirical and historical descriptions of the country, community, agency, department, institution, group, genre or otherwise upon which the actual research project is focused. This section should also include a discussion of what has been written on the particular topic.
  - b. Theoretical Discussion**

In this section you should discuss the various theoretical explanations proposed by scholars who have studied the particular problem and which of these explanations you accept or reject with reasons. You should also be quite specific as to which theoretical explanations or combination thereof is being tested in the project.
  - c. Discussion of Methodology**

You should include a description of the research methods used and a justification for their use in the project.
  - d. Discussion of Data**

This section should constitute the meat of the Thesis and will involve detailed presentation, analysis, and interpretation of primary texts and data (tables, history, criticism, interview materials, etc.).
  - e. Discussion of Conclusions**

This section will involve discussion of the theoretical and/or practical conclusions that can be drawn from the data stemming from an analysis of the data discussed in the section above. Of course, these conclusions can be interwoven into the discussion of the data but must be summarized in a separate concluding section.
  - f. Practical Implications/Prognosis**

In this section the implications of the findings in terms of future prospects, what needs to be done, and the chances for resolution should be discussed. This section may not always be necessary for Humanities majors.
7. Three or four blank pages should be affixed to the end of the thesis for comments from the faculty advisers.