

The African American Studies Department
H195A African American Studies Honors Thesis

A copy of this must be handed in to each of your prospective advisers.

Throughout this semester, students will be able to develop a research prospectus to complete a bibliography of sources to be used to develop research methodology and analytical framework, and to write comprehensive accounts of the nature of the project, its substantive (practical) and theoretical significance, and expected conclusions. They will also be expected to make significant progress on their research.

Students will work directly with their Thesis advisers. By the second week of classes, students must identify their two advisers and have them sign the form provided. The primary adviser must be from the Department of African American Studies. The second adviser may be from another department on campus.

Students are to set up regularly scheduled meetings with their advisers. These should be weekly or biweekly. Students must keep a signed log of their meetings. This log with the advisers' signatures must be included in a binder with all other work completed for the semester. The log will be in the following format:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Adviser's Signature</u>
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In addition, students are to submit the following to their advisers for approval. Each objective should have its own tab in the Honors Thesis binder.

Week 2

The "Application for Honors Thesis" form that is to be signed by each of the advisers indicating her/his agreement to serve in that capacity. The form must include a proposed topic for their thesis that is approved by prospective advisers. The signed form must be handed in to the Student Affairs Officer by the end of the second week. The student will be dropped from the class if the signed form is not on file with the SAO by this time.

Week 3

Objective: An extended description of the project containing a general introduction and a background to the project. Instructions for this section are detailed in the Thesis Format Handout.

Week 5

Objective: A Theoretical Discussion of the project. Instructions for this are detailed in the Thesis Format Handout.

Week 7

Objective: A Discussion of Methodology. This is a detailed statement about the research methods to be employed for data collection and a timetable for completing the research. They also need to append this discussion with a bibliography of sources to be used for archival research, a list of persons to be interviewed, and an account of how these persons are to be located and contacted. When interview questionnaires are to be used, they must be presented to the adviser at this time. In addition, student's advisers should assess whether student research will need approval by the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. According to the CPHS website <http://cphs.berkeley.edu/review.html>:

- Class Projects, Research Practica, and Undergraduate Thesis Projects involving research methodology and course-assigned data collection. These activities generally do not constitute research because their purpose is to provide training in research as part of the overall educational mission of a program and are not designed to contribute to new knowledge. *However*, if, for example, a student is involved in an activity designed to teach research methodologies and the instructor or student wishes to conduct further investigation and analyses in order to contribute to scholarly knowledge, the design of the project has changed such that it meets the above definition of research and requires CPHS/OPHS review. Regardless of when this change occurs, CPHS/OPHS must at this time review the research. *Course instructors are responsible for assessing whether these activities meet the definition of research as delineated above and are encouraged to contact OPHS for assistance if needed*

Week 9

Objective: A detailed accounting of the data that have been collected thus far and of the data that are still to be collected; an account of the methods to be employed for data analysis; and a discussion of how the data will be presented in their thesis.

Week 11

Objective: An account of progress in data collection; a preliminary accounting of findings thus far; and an extended discussion of what conclusion can be expected from the project.

Week 13

Objective: A detailed statement about the practical implications and significance of the project. How is it related to the conditions and problems faced by people of African descent? How does it add to the understanding of these conditions and problems?

Final Week of Classes

Objective: A binder of everything completed for the course, along with the assessments and comments from the advisers must be handed in to the SAO on the last day of classes. Each of the advisers will be contacted to determine a grade for the student or to discuss the student's progress.