

# ANTH 499: Honours Seminar

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*INSTRUCTOR: Prof Brian Thom*

## Course Description and Objectives

The Honours seminar is a capstone class that provides students with a collaborative intellectual community. The honours seminar functions very much like a graduate seminar, providing mentorship in scholarly professional development, along with rich peer learning focused on bridging sub-field knowledge and integrative anthropological thinking to contribute to understanding current issues, ideas and debates. Key milestones for the Honours Seminar will be working through fundamental elements of the research, writing and presentation of the Honours essay.

## Course Format

This class will be a three-hour weekly in-person seminar in the spring term. Students will be expected to come prepared and to participate actively in the conversations. To facilitate the successful scoping, logistics and approvals of the honours essay, we will also be holding several shorter sessions together at a mutually agreeable time during the fall term. In addition to these scheduled group seminar times, students will identify an honours supervisor -- an anthropology professor intimately knowledgeable with the honours thesis topic -- and organize individual meetings with them at key points throughout the term.

## Skills Development

- Critical and integrative thinking, evaluating arguments, synthesizing information, comprehending the context of academic debate and argument.
- Development and application of research skills including defining a research problem, creating a manageable research question, developing a research plan, identifying relevant sources, composing a literature review, generating relevant data, and analysing data.
- Verbal and written communication skills including summarizing

information, synthesizing data, structuring an argument, offering constructive peer review, and revising work in progress.

- Presentation skills including summarizing and communicating research results in conference-style presentations.