ANTH 595: ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH DESIGN (4cr.)
MW 1100-1220
(Spring 2007)
Dr. Sunil Khanna
Office Hrs: MW 900-1030

Course Credits
4, class meets for four hours each week.

Course Content
Anth 595 is a graduate seminar course on the theme of research design. The focus is on
the process of research -- from the selection of a research topic to developing a research
proposal and to reporting research findings. We will discuss issues concerning selection
of a research topic, methodology and data collection, data analysis and interpretation,
ethical and political aspects of research, and finally writing for publication. The primary
assumption here is that the best way to learn how to write a research proposal is to
actually write one. Students will select a research topic, write various sections of a
research proposal, and review sections of research proposals written by other class
participants. Students are expected to provide constructive comments aimed at
improving the quality of research projects and to broaden their own understanding of
the "research process." Although the primary focus of the course is anthropology, it is
organized around elements of research design that cut across disciplines.

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Enforced Prerequisites
9 credits of upper-division social science, including at least one 400-level anthropology
course.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the course, student will be able to:
  • develop skills necessary for effective grant writing.
  • formulate a well defined research question(s) and summarize appropriate
evidence to answer the research question.
  • develop a feasible plan for gathering and analyzing relevant data/evidence.
  • discuss the significance of the research.

Important Information
  • Consistent work is central to succeeding in this course. I want to caution you
about how easy and disastrous falling behind in your work can be. In my
experience, the vast majority of students that fall behind never get caught up.
There is simply so much work involved. Please be aware of this and try to complete your weekly readings and discussion assignments in a timely manner.

• Communication with the instructor is fundamental to the success in the course. Please do not hesitate to communicate with me either during my office hours or via email.

• The purpose of an incomplete grade is to provide students a means to deal with an emotional, natural, or technological calamity and not as a time management device. An "incomplete" should not be used to submit a late proposal or a better proposal. Because we will be writing the proposal throughout the term and the final draft will be an abridged version of the work already completed, those of you who keep up with the class requirements should not find the final proposal draft to be overly time consuming.

• **Students with Disabilities:** Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact SSD immediately at 737-4098.

• **Expectations for Student Conduct:** Cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication are acts of academic dishonesty and, in accordance with OSU’s policy on academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated. Members of the college community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one’s research, to present the words, ideas, data or work of another as one’s own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of learning. Anyone caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will fail the course.

• Please see the following website for OSU Academic Dishonesty Policy: [http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm).

**Course Resources**

• Course Reader (available at the OSU Bookstore). I have prepared a course reader of selected articles addressing individual topics related to proposal writing and research design. It is vital that you complete the assigned readings in order to constructively participate in class discussion. (CR)

**Evaluation of Student Performance**

1. **Class participation and presentation (@ 10%)**
   In a seminar course like Anth 595 it is important that you actively and regularly participate in class discussion. In addition to writing the various sections of your own research proposal in a timely manner, you are responsible for reviewing and discussing sections of research proposals written by other class participants.

2. **Six sections of a research proposal (@ 5% each; total 30%)**
   We will develop the primary six sections of a research proposal as recommended by the National Science Foundation. For each week you will write a section of your research proposal and make sufficient copies of the write up to share it with the class. Each section should not exceed three double-spaced typed pages. Obviously, you will receive copies of the sections written by other class participants. Over the weekend you will read those section descriptions and prepare for discussion. Because the course is organized to provide feedback on each section of your research proposal, it is necessary that you submit each section in a timely manner. We will not discuss late proposal sections in a later class meeting and late proposal sections will not receive class credit.

3. **Research proposal (@ 40%) due on the last week of the term.**
   Based on suggestions and comments on your proposal sections throughout the term, you are to write a research proposal according to the guidelines provided by the National Science Foundation (see Course Reader for specific information). Late proposals will not be accepted.

4. **Application for the IRB review (@ 10%)**
   You will develop a detailed application for the Institutional Review Board at Oregon State University. As a researcher you have a responsibility to ensure that the treatment of human participants in research meets the highest ethical standard. You can download the relevant IRB application form from the following website:
   [http://oregonstate.edu/research/osprc/rc/humansubjects.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/research/osprc/rc/humansubjects.htm).
5. **Presentation in the “Works in Progress” series (@ 10%)**

At the end of the term, you will present your work in the “Works in Progress” series. You are required to submit a PowerPoint presentation of your work prior to your participation in the series.

**Course Readings and Class Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>An Introduction to research design and proposal writing</td>
<td>Reading: The Function of the Proposal (PTW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Developing research proposals</td>
<td>Reading: Developing the Thesis or Dissertation Proposals: Some Common Problems (PTW); How to Prepare a Research Proposal by Krathwohl; Help for the Proposal Writer; Anthropology Grant Proposal Handbook; and Writing Grant Proposals for Anthropological Research (CR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Introductory statement</td>
<td><strong>Introductory statement due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Theoretical background/literature review</td>
<td><strong>Section on theoretical background and literature review due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Research plan and methodology</td>
<td><strong>Section on research plan and methodology due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Time line and budget</td>
<td><strong>Section on time line and budget due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Significance</td>
<td><strong>Section on significance of research due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reading and Evaluating: Ethics and human subjects</td>
<td><strong>Section on ethics and human subjects due</strong></td>
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Week 6: Reading and Evaluating: Time line and budget

Readings: Informed Consent in Anthropological Research: We are not Exempt by Fluehr-Lobban (CR)

**Additional Information**

- **PowerPoint version of your presentation due**
Week 9  
(5/30)  
Participation in the “Works in Progress” series

Week 10  
(6/4-6/6)  
Final version of research proposal due