**Description**: Students will produce an advanced research report on a topic of their choice based on original research and written in the form of a professional article using the style conventions of the *American Anthropologist*. The project will be based on field research broadly defined in the sense that the *Human Relations Area Files* (available in the electronic collection of the Westmont library) may be used as a data source as well as directly gathered field data. However, students are strongly encouraged to do fieldwork. Students are expected to draw on skills and concepts learned in previous theory and methods courses and to work independently. **However, weekly meetings with the supervising professor are required.**

- This course functions as the capstone course for anthropology majors. Since “anthropology is what anthropologists do,” the research project functions as the summative assessment of how well a student is able to “do” anthropology at a level appropriate for an advanced undergraduate. It requires the use of anthropological theory, a synthesis of the relevant scholarly literature in the field, the use of anthropological methods and data analysis, and a presentation of the findings in a manner that reflects the stylistic conventions of the discipline. Students are required to conduct the research and present the findings in a manner consistent with the ethical principles of the discipline and the Christian faith. Students are also asked to reflect upon the implications of their findings to questions of faith and learning as relevant to their topic of study; the supervising professor will direct students to the appropriate literature as far as possible given the at times scarcity of work from a Christian anthropological perspective.

**Required Texts:**

American Anthropological Association

If you have been using an earlier version, discard it and use this one. You may download it free from [http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf](http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf)

Bernard, H. Russell

Pyrczak, Fred and Randall R Bruce

Turabian, Kate L.
Research Schedule:

A. Weeks 1-3: Research Question and Annotated Bibliography

1. Research question should be developed.

2. Annotated Bibliography—a minimum of fifteen scholarly sources
   a. an annotated bibliography includes the full bibliographic citation and a short paragraph describing the main points of each work. This will be used as a basis for writing the literature review for the proposal.

By week 3 both the research question and the annotated bibliography are to be submitted to the supervising professor.

B. Weeks 4-5: Research Proposal

A research proposal is like a roadmap for your project. In it you define your topic or problem, demonstrate that you are familiar with the related works of others, provide a theoretical framework, describe the methods you will use, provide the steps or techniques for data analysis, and discuss the potential significance of the research and its future results. Overall, the conduct of the research project and presentation of the findings and conclusions must be consistent with the ethical principles of the American Anthropological Association and the Christian faith. Submit the proposal by the end of week 5.

Parts of the Research Design

1. Descriptive Title

2. Introduction: In this section, provide a brief introduction to your topic and provide a context for understanding the importance of your question.

3. Problem/Question: Here you define your research problem and question more specifically. This section should lay out the questions you propose to answer or the hypothesis you want to test. Emphasize and define the core concepts related to your research question. Scholars weaken their work when they fail to define their concepts in a clear and logical way.
4. **Literature Review**: This part of the proposal places your project in the context of related research and demonstrates that you are aware of important theoretical and methodological questions which others have raised as well the findings of similar research. If appropriate, you may identify important questions that previous work did not address and that you think are important.

5. **Theory**: In this section, you specify the theoretical framework you will use to interpret or explain the data you gather. Often, the theory provides direction for how to operationalize important concepts. Draw upon a contemporary anthropological theory or theories.

6. **Methods**: This section describes the participants (or other unit of analysis) and how you will select them, operational definitions of your main concepts, and the methods and instruments you will use together data. Remember that you strengthen your research when you use more than one technique to gather information. It is also important to make sure that the methods are suited to the type of data you want to collect. Copies of the actual instruments are to be included in appendices. A completed IRB application must be included as an appendix.

7. **Data Analysis**: Here you discuss the techniques or processes you plan to use to analyze your data.

8. **Significance**: This is the *Aso what* section of your research design. Here you describe the potential contribution of your project will. In addition, your significance should include a discussion of how your project is related to questions of faith and learning.

C. Weeks 6-10: Data Gathering

D. Weeks 11-15: Data Analysis and Write Up. The final paper is due no later than the final day of classes for the semester. Your paper should include these sections:

1. Descriptive Title*
2. Introduction*
3. Description of the Problem*
4. Literature Review*
5. Theory*
6. Methods* (Include any modifications you made or problems you encountered.)
7. Presentation and analysis of your data.
8. Discussion of your data
9. Discussion of the significance of the findings and conclusions and further questions for study and the relevance to questions of faith and learning
10. List of references
11. Appendices

*These sections come directly from your research design but are modified as needed.

The department encourages all students who do research to give presentations at the Westmont Student Research Symposium and the Annual Western Sociology-Anthropology Student Research Conference held at Santa Clara University. Both events usually occur during the later part of spring semester.