Goals and Guidelines of the Anthropology Senior Research Assignment

Senior Research Assignment (SRA--consisting of ANTH 490 Senior Assignment and ANTH 491 Senior Project) is intended to be a capstone or culminating experience of the Anthropology program, in which students integrate skills and knowledge acquired from all aspects of the program and demonstrate acquisition of the program goals.

The SRA should involve some type of original data collection and/or analysis.

More specifically, students should design a scholarly activity or research relating to at least one of the four subfields of anthropology (sociocultural, linguistic, archaeology, biological anthropology) including:
- identifying one or more research questions, objectives, or hypotheses supported on theoretical grounds
- demonstrating the ability to comprehend and utilize appropriate written resources in addressing the topic
- identifying appropriate methodologies to address or analyze the questions, objectives, or hypotheses
- demonstrating the ability to evaluate or analyze information, data, or materials produced from the activity in an appropriate theoretical context and with reference to relevant work
- identifying ethical issues associated with the theory and methods of the activity, and following appropriate, accepted protocols and regulations related to conducting the project, as applicable

Students may also demonstrate aspects of other program goals through SRA.

Achievement of these goals will be evaluated through three main products:
- a written research proposal in a professional format (as required for URCA proposals or for proposals designed for agencies or organizations involved with anthropological research)
- a research report or paper, in a format and style consistent with that required for publication in an anthropological forum
- a formal presentation, in a format and style consistent with that required at professional meetings in anthropology

Guidelines for the Formal Presentation:
The formal presentation will be made to an audience of Anthropology faculty and students, as well as other invited guests during the annual Senior Research Symposium. The symposium is considered a professional event, so dress and behavior should be appropriate for a professional meetings.
In addition:
- Each student presentation should be 13-15 minutes in length, with an additional 5 minutes for questions.
- The presentation should include appropriate use of some type of visual or interactive element, including (but not limited to) PowerPoint, video clips, displays, or other media or presentation tools. It is useful to have experience working with PowerPoint, and presentations in this format are recommended for most projects, although students can get approval from their mentors for other presentation formats.
- The presentation is to principally focus on the explanation of the student activities and demonstration of the SRA goals.
- Good oral communication skills and engagement with the audience are also important components of a successful presentation.