

# Course Goals and Learning Objectives

## ANTH 5050 Preparation for Practice and the Applied Thesis

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### Course Goals

This course has three overall goals:

1. Planning the applied thesis
2. Professional development
3. Bringing students into the community of practice of applied/practicing anthropologists.

Below is a list of the specific learning objectives within each goal. For each learning objective, I have identified course activities that accomplish the objective.

### 1. *Planning the Applied Thesis*

Learning Objective	Course Activities
Students develop a vision and plan for the thesis project	<p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>A series of assignments that follow a “funneling” approach, moving from a broad statement of interests all the way to writing the actual applied thesis proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Field of Interest Paper</li><li>• Organizations List</li><li>• Informational Interview 1</li><li>• Project Statement</li><li>• Interview 2</li><li>• Proposal</li></ul>
How to find an applied thesis site	<p>Resources on the ANTH 5050 class website</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Assignments: Organizations List, Informational Interviews</p>

<p><b>Client development, i.e. how to approach potential clients/community partners, how to develop a relationship, how to sustain the relationship</b></p>	<p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Readings – Peter Block 1981a, b, c</p> <p>Assignment: Project Statement</p>
<p><b>Project design, i.e. how to develop a solid research design that answers the client’s/community partner’s questions within the student’s resource constraints</b></p>	<p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Class activity: have students develop potential research designs as a group activity; professor provides ongoing feedback</p> <p>Handout – “How to Develop a Project Design”</p>
<p><b>Writing the applied thesis proposal</b></p>	<p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Handouts – “Applied Thesis Proposal Guidelines,” sample proposals from former students</p> <p>Assignment: Proposal</p>
<p><b>Conducting the applied thesis project</b></p>	<p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Handouts – “Communication between Student, Faculty Advisor, and Site Sponsor During Applied Thesis Project,” “Applied Thesis Guidelines”</p> <p>Guest speakers – students who have completed the applied thesis talk to the class</p>

## 2. Professional Development

Learning Objective	Course Activities
How to do an informational interview	<p>Nolan book</p> <p>Assignments: Informational Interviews</p> <p>Preparation for assignment: class activity – practice interviews</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion</p>
How to get a job/marketing yourself	<p>Nolan book</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion, including topics like elevator speeches</p>
How to be successful on the job, including importance of being both entrepreneurial and a team player	<p>Nolan book</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion; recurrent discussion theme throughout semester</p>

## 3. Bringing Students into the Community of Practice of Applied/Practicing Anthropologists

Learning Objective	Course Activities
What are the professional organizations (AAA, NAPA, SfAA, COPAA)	<p>Show websites of organizations</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion</p>
How to attend conferences	<p>Handout on attending conferences</p> <p>Class discussion before conferences</p> <p>Class debrief after conferences</p>

<p>How to do networking</p>	<p>Nolan book</p> <p>Guest speakers</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Assignments: Informational Interviews</p>
<p>Awareness of contested issues in the field, such as public anthropology and the theory/practice divide or synthesis</p>	<p>Readings on public anthropology, notion of the “scholar-practitioner,” etc.</p> <p>Class discussions in which students develop positions on those issues so that they can interact with other community members in a sophisticated way</p>
<p>Ethical issues in applied work</p>	<p>Readings on ethics</p> <p>Class discussion on ethics</p>
<p>Exposure to multiple varieties of applied/practicing anthropology</p>	<p>Guest speakers</p> <p>Readings: case studies</p> <p>Class discussion</p>
<p>Getting to know the cultural logics of practitioners</p>	<p>Nolan book</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion; recurrent discussion theme throughout semester</p>
<p>Learning about the career trajectories of practitioner lives (entrepreneurial, improvisational, nonlinear, etc.)</p>	<p>Chapters from NAPA Bulletin 26</p> <p>Class lecture and discussion</p> <p>Guest speakers</p> <p>Assignments: Informational Interviews</p>
<p>Getting to know members of the community of practice</p>	<p>Guest speakers</p> <p>Assignments: Informational Interviews</p>