

ENVS 197  
**Senior Thesis**

**Fall 2020 – Spring 2021**

**During Fall quarter, we meet as a class on Mondays, 2:00 – 4:20 pm, and you enroll for 6 units of course credit. During Winter and Spring quarters, you work independently.**

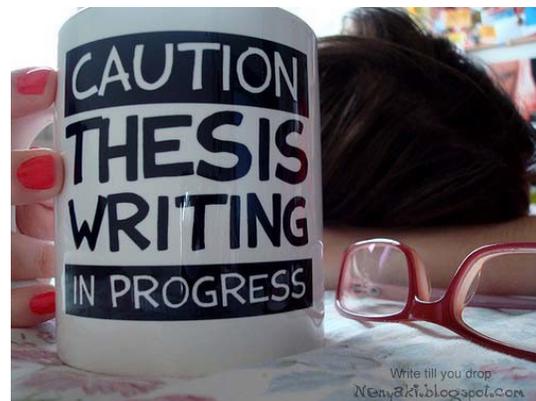
**You earn your grade for the 6 units of course credit at the end of spring quarter.**

**Professor Simone Pulver**

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**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm**

**Bren Hall, Floor 4L, Rm 4001**



**ENVS 197 Course Description**

This seminar is designed to provide structure, guidance, and support for Environmental Studies majors in the research and writing of a senior thesis. The course guides you through the process of conceptualizing and completing a research project. The focus is on: 1) identifying a significant research problem and specifying an appropriate research question to address it; 2) thinking critically about the work of other scholars in relation to your research question; 3) making good choices regarding research design and evidence; 4) developing coherent arguments, analysis and assessment; and 5) developing skills in constructive criticism, formal academic writing, and research presentations. The seminar emphasizes the iterative, interactive *process* of research—how the various building blocks of research interact with and influence one another.

By the end of the Fall quarter, you will be well on your way to writing a successful senior thesis in Environmental Studies! Specifically, you will have written the first two chapters of your thesis (Chapter 1: Introduction and Research Overview and Chapter 2: Literature Review), started your collaboration with a research advisor, and developed a research design and data collection strategy. During Winter Quarter, you should plan to focus on writing up Chapter 3: Background/Methods and on data collection and data analysis. Finally, during Spring Quarter, you will write the remaining chapters (Chapters 4 to 6 or so), presenting the results of your research and your conclusions. The final version of your senior thesis is due Week 7 of Spring quarter, and you will have the opportunity to publicly present your research results during the ES Senior Thesis Presentations in Week 9 of Spring quarter.

### **Fall Quarter: Formulating your research plan**

Week 1	Introduction – What is a senior thesis in ES?
Week 2	Formulating a researchable question – What is your question?
Week 3	Literature Review I - What have other people said about your question?
Week 4	Literature Review II - Progress report
Week 5	Research Design I - Logics of inquiry
Week 6	Research Design II - Collecting data
Week 7	Putting it all together
Week 8	Presentations and Peer Review I
Week 9	Presentations and Peer Review II
Week 10	Presentations and Peer Review III
Final Exam	Planning next steps – Where do you go from here? Chapters 1 and 2 DUE

**Winter Quarter:**      **Write up background/context/methods (Chapter 3)**  
                                 **Data collection and data analysis**  
                                 **Begin drafting results chapters**

**Spring Quarter:**      **Finish writing results and conclusion chapters (Chapters 4 – 6 or so)**  
                                 **Submit complete senior thesis (Week 7)**  
                                 **Senior Thesis Presentations (Week 9)**

### **How to enroll in ENVS 197:**

Access short online application by

- Emailing Prof Pulver and requesting link ([pulver@ucsb.edu](mailto:pulver@ucsb.edu))
- Or finding link on ES website – Student Programs – Senior Thesis

Complete the application.

Once available, add codes will be distributed on a rolling basis.

Students need to have a 3.0 GPA in order to be eligible for ENVS 197.