G.R. Graves, Thesis Director
4240 HSSB office hours: Mondays 9-10:30
4007 Bren Hall office hours, Fridays 12-2 and by appointment
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Welcome to the ES Senior Thesis seminar. To be eligible to enroll in the class, you need to have a 3.0 overall GPA, or your thesis proposal approved by the thesis coordinator or the ES program chair. The senior thesis is probably the longest paper you will write as an undergraduate. Writing thirty-to-forty pages (more in some cases) of comprehensive work is challenging. It requires planning, focusing, research, writing, and re-writing. The better your thesis statement, research plan, and detailed outline, the more successful the final product will be.

Although the 197 class is only offered in fall quarter, the process of researching and writing the thesis will probably take the entire academic year. Most people will file incompletes for winter and spring quarters. If necessary, you can extend your incompletes into subsequent quarters. (However, this is not encouraged.)

The products you will need to complete during fall quarter are:

1) a research abstract or prospectus with a working title
2) an annotated bibliography
3) a signed research agreement with a thesis advisor
4) a four-to-five-page (single-spaced) detailed outline

During the last two meetings we will have student presentations and discussions of research designs. In winter and spring quarters, we will meet individually on a periodic basis to track progress, and deal with potential problems. It is important to keep your advisor informed of your progress during winter and spring quarters. Ultimately, your advisor has to approve the completed thesis. The overall grade will then be determined based on the thesis grade and the seminar performance.

Attendance is required at all meetings during the fall seminar.

If you are in the Honors Program and want to receive distinction in the ES major, you need to take the 197 class, complete the thesis, and receive an "A" or “A-“ for the final grade.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR THESIS AWARD
A recent addition to the Senior Thesis regimen is an award for the best thesis of the year. To be considered for the award you must have your thesis completed by May 15 to give the committee sufficient time to make the selections. The committee will select one thesis as the best of the year, and the winner will receive recognition and a cash prize.

Fall Schedule

September 28: Introduction
October 5: Thesis Guidelines
(The Guidelines on Gauchospace. You can print off a copy for your use.)

October 12: Library Tours
October 19: Research and Methods I (Draft Abstract with Working Title due in class. 1-2 pages, double-spaced)
October 26: Individual Consultations
November 2: Individual Consultations
November 9: Research and Methods II
November 16: Research and Methods III
November 23: Student Presentations
November 30: Student Presentations; Abstract, bibliography, detailed outline, and advisor agreements due. Processing incomplete petitions.

Please purchase Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (7th Edition). Amazon.com has it for less than $10.00, but you can get it at any good bookstore, including the UCEN. Make sure you get the 7th Edition. We will use this book in Research and Methods weeks.