

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**FALL 2026-WINTER 2027
ANTH 5100F/ ANTH 6100F
THESIS WRITING SEMINAR**

Instructor: Donna Patrick

Office: Loeb C770

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment

Email: donnpatrick@cunet.carleton.ca

Course meets: Alternating Tuesdays 2:35-5:25, in-person in the Fall term, and Tuesdays 11:35-2:25 in the Winter term.

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses:

Available to doctoral candidates and MA students in anthropology currently writing their doctoral dissertations, or MA Theses, or by permission of the instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the seminar is to support doctoral and MA students in their writing process.

The seminar will meet 12 times during the Fall and Winter terms, approximately once every two weeks. During the first class of each term, we will collaborate on establishing a schedule to present draft writing samples for feedback. Students will aim to provide a writing sample at least two days in advance for everyone to read. Each student will present their writing sample (5-10 minutes) and highlight writing-related issues/questions/concerns to discuss with the class. Peer feedback will be in the form of verbal comments from all participants. Thus, your obligation as a seminar participant is to (1) present a writing sample to the class (chapter excerpt and/or full chapter) as per the schedule discussed at the beginning of each term; and (2) to read disseminated writing samples produced by peers and to comment on these in class discussion. There will be opportunities to comment on the work of your peers in writing as well as orally throughout the term.

As time permits, each week we will discuss topics that might include i) contemplating the process of writing; 2) the mechanics of writing, crafting clear sentences and coherent writing, developing a writing style; 3) copy-editing and how to handle revisions.

Workshop presentations in the fall term with support from MacOdrum Library staff: 1) formatting your dissertation and creating a table of contents with Library Research Support Services; and 2) managing dissertation citations and references (Zotero and Mendeley) to be confirmed.

READINGS/BOOKS:

There are no required readings for this course. However, academic resources to support the writing process and professional development will be posted on Brightspace for your reference.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION:

This is a zero-credit course, which receives a grade of ‘satisfactory’ or ‘unsatisfactory.’ All anthropology PhD students who are at the thesis writing stage are required to complete two terms of this seminar with a grade of ‘satisfactory.’ (This does not apply to and anthropology MA students). Students must register for the Fall and Winter terms separately. Students are welcome and encouraged to continue to enroll in the seminar for as long as they are working on their thesis, beyond the minimum two term requirement.

There are no graded assignments for this course.

A grade of satisfactory requires:

- attendance of 6 classes each semester for a total of 12 classes (contact instructor if you will miss a class)
- active participation in all class meetings
- informed verbal feedback on peers’ work
- presentation (in writing and orally) of at least one draft writing sample/chapter of the dissertation per term for comment by peers and instructor

Please note:

1. Writing samples or chapters should be circulated to class members and the instructor a minimum of 7 days (for a chapter) and 2 days (for an excerpt) prior to our scheduled feedback session.
2. Email your writing sample to everyone in the class. The instructor or student can also upload the writing sample to Brightspace where everyone registered in the class can access it.
3. If a student attends the seminar, but is not at the point of being able to distribute draft writing samples/chapter for commentary by the end of the first term, the student will be asked to withdraw and re-register for the following term as their official ‘term one’.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2026-27:

Fall 2026 (Tuesdays 2:35-5:25)

September 15: Introductory meeting

September 29

October 13

November 3

November 17

December 1

Winter 2027 (Tuesdays 11:35-2:25)

January 12: Introductory meeting

January 26

February 9

February 23

March 9

March 23

Please Note:

1. We may choose to adjust this schedule as needed.