Department of Anthropology, spring term 2011
V14.09050.001 HONORS II Seminar
Professor Aisha Khan, 25 Waverly Place, room 606, x83751
Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00-12:30, and by appointment
Class meeting day and time: alternate Wednesdays, 3:00pm-4:45pm, 1st floor conference room, 25 Waverly Place

Course description and objectives
This seminar is a continuation of the fall 2010, Honors I seminar. It guides thesis writers in the art and science of transforming an independent research project into a scholarly text that is accessible to both specialist and non-specialist readers. The seminar will provide a forum for students in different sub-disciplines of anthropology to share problems and strategies for research and writing, as well as to critique each others' work in peer review exchanges. Our goal will be to produce a B.A. honors thesis in anthropology that is worthy of inclusion in applications to graduate and professional schools and that can serve as the foundation for further research.

We will follow the fall format of meeting times (and place), which means that we will meet eight times during the term. Our focus will be on your honors thesis, and its presentation at NYU’s campus-wide undergraduate honors event at the end of the academic year. A schedule of spring deadlines will be posted on our seminar’s Blackboard site. The syllabus also will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation and expectations
Students will present something relevant to their research project in each of our eight class sessions, followed by class discussion and peer review. Students will be paired together combining sub-disciplines as much as possible. We will make regular use of Blackboard for peer review of work in progress. You will have specific assignments for the first half of the term, which will be graded on a letter grade basis, and your final thesis will be graded on a letter grade basis, as well, reflecting the comments of your thesis adviser and second reader. Assignment grades and thesis grade together will make up your final grade for the seminar. Attendance will be factored into your final grade, so regular attendance for all eight class meetings is highly recommended.

Advisers and readers
By Honors II each student should have an honors thesis adviser. About two-thirds of the way through the term (Mar 23) you should be thinking about your second reader and discussing this with your adviser, so that by the end of the term you have everyone lined up and ready to proceed in a timely fashion—that is, so you can graduate in a timely fashion!

Suggested texts
Peruse Bobcat for books on field methods, of which there are many currently available.
Schedule of class meetings

**Wed, Jan 26**  Description of thesis projects, review of progress of thesis projects to date. *Assignment:* share with class at least one challenge, hurdle, difficulty (resolved or not) deriving from your project—either its conceptualization, the data collection, or your analysis. Include (i) how the challenge manifested itself, (ii) at what point it did so in your research, (iii) what you think may have generated it. You need to refer to at least one published work (article, book chapter) that relates in some way to what you are presenting (a similar problem, a solution, etc.).

**Wed, Feb 9**  Random distribution of project challenges/problems via Blackboard, students will come to class with suggestions for solutions.

**Wed, Feb 23**  Abstract writing workshop. Student pairs will bring to class one article or book and after workshop, draft a 100-word, a 250-word, and a 500-word abstract.

**Wed, Mar 9**  Continue abstract writing workshop, peer review of abstracts.

**Spring break Mar 14-Mar 20**

**Wed, Mar 23**  Literature review of ten key sources (articles, books) used in your thesis: summarize their main points or arguments and explain why they are necessary to your analysis. To do this you will need to provide a thorough yet brief summary of your thesis project.

**Wed, Apr 6**  Peer review of literature reviews: comment on the relevance to the thesis of the literature discussed, the clarity of exposition, the persuasiveness of the project’s significance (to a specialist and/or to the lay public).

**Wed, Apr 20**  Project presentations, written, and peer review.

**Wed, May 4**  Project presentations, oral and power point, etc., and peer review.