

# Masters Exam Preparation

## Course Aims

The purpose of the course is to help you prepare for the written and oral masters qualifying exam. The online guide for exam preparation<sup>1</sup> states:

“The master’s exam serves two purposes. The first is pedagogical: studying for the exam helps students to extend and deepen their knowledge of the material, learn about topics not covered in their courses, and gain a broad, integrated view of the field. The exam also serves as a means of evaluation. . . .”

The exam, in other words, requires preparation that goes beyond regular coursework. Anthropology 6940 is designed to facilitate this preparation by fostering collaboration with fellow students and providing a formal structure whereby students can solicit guidance from the faculty.

## Course Description

Masters students are required to take this course in the fourth semester of their residency. The class meets for one hour per week, with a different faculty member each week. The course is similar to a typical independent study course in that most of the work will take place through independent research outside of class. Class time will be spent in discussion with fellow students and in consultation with the attending faculty member. Faculty are to be used as a resource to clarify and discuss material you have read on your own, and to suggest additional readings as appropriate.

## Grading

The qualifying exam will be administered at the end of the term and the course grade will be based on the student’s performance on that exam. Students achieving a high pass will receive an A in the course, those receiving a low pass will receive a B, and those failing will receive a C in the course provided that they have attended and participated regularly.

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<sup>1</sup>See <http://www.anthro.utah.edu/graduate-study/masters-program/masters-qualifying-exam.html>