

Guidelines to faculty:

- Students must write a thesis (~20 pages) AND prepare and present a seminar or a poster describing their research in Earth System Science. The seminar or poster can be presented at a lab meeting, at the department level or at a conference.
- Students receive guidance on the effective oral and written communication of research results.
- Honors application: the faculty must deem the thesis honors-quality for ESS H198W.

Prerequisite:

- Two quarters of [EARTHSS 199](#).
- Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement.

Suggested Thesis Format:

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each discipline is unique and the ways to present your research may be many and varied. This outline should not be viewed as rigid or mandatory – your thesis should be written with the guidance of a faculty member appropriate to your topic and she/he usually can give you some advice as to what pieces of this suggested format you need to include in your thesis. Format should be consistent throughout and, wherever possible, appropriate to your discipline.

1. Title page (title, centered; your name and the date, i.e., June, 1997), your faculty advisor's name & department should be indicated in the lower section of the page)
2. Acknowledgments (if you want to do this)
3. Abstract (brief summary of the purpose, methods, and results of your research/thesis)
4. Table of Contents (if appropriate)
Some students have also organized items 5-9 as chapters – discuss the appropriate format with your faculty advisor.
5. Introduction/Overview/Hypothesis (outline of the topic/problem; what you set out to do and why; perhaps list some anticipated results)
6. Background, literature review/previous research, definition of terms
7. Methodology (i.e., methods & measures, model, subjects, instrumentation, variables, procedures)
8. Results/findings/conclusion & discussion of same
9. Bibliography
10. Tables, charts, appendices, pictures, surveys, etc.

Sample Weekly schedule for theses:

Week	Assignment	Completed by the next Monday
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research topic on web of science. • Develop a list of 10 relevant references, and write 2-3 sentences summarizing the important points of each article. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference list and summaries • Meeting with PI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule meeting with PI to go over paper outline, data analysis, and to develop a weekly meeting schedule. 	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate summary statistics and develop first draft of graphs. Draft the Methods section of the manuscript. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft of Methods section. Draft of graphs
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft the Introduction section of the manuscript. Edit Methods Section based on comments. Develop a list of 10 additional relevant references. Meet with PI again to conduct additional analyses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft of Introduction, Methods, and Figures Draft of statistical analyses List of 20 references with summaries
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit Introduction based on comments. Edit Methods based on new comments. Draft the Results section of the manuscript, including results of statistical analyses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft of Introduction, Methods, Results, and Figures
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft the Discussion section of the manuscript. Edit the entire manuscript so far based on comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete first draft of manuscript
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer manuscript reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer manuscript reviews
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edit manuscript based on peer reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete second draft of manuscript
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on third draft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete third draft of manuscript
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make final edits 	
10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final manuscript due