**Anthropology 201**

**Thesis Exercise (10pts)**

**Due in recitation sections (please consult syllabus for due dates)**

One of the primary things that distinguishes popular writing from academic writing, is that academic works are driven by theses. A thesis is a statement of the author’s argument, what she believes the book or article she has written demonstrates about a particular idea or subject. Thesis statements are not statements of fact – they are assertions that others may argue are true or false.

Learning to identify and write thesis statements is critical for your development as an anthropologist. Learning to identify or explain the thesis of an academic work is important for understanding why an author provides the information that she does. Learning to craft a good thesis statement is also key for developing your own academic writing skills – without a strong thesis statement your papers will lack clear organization.

Type your answers to the following questions:

1. Primary thesis: What is Starn’s thesis in *The Passion of Tiger Woods*? Sometimes authors will identify their theses with a statement such as “In this book, I argue…” However, many times books do not have a one or two sentence thesis and you must come up with a summary of the thesis. (2pts)

This book is about Tigergate and how golf affects society and how having a multiracial person play golf affect society.

1. Secondary thesis: In a book, authors usually develop secondary theses, or subarguments that support their overall thesis by exploring an aspect of it in greater detail. In chapter 5, Starn makes an argument about the trajectory of golf and what it says about the changing role of race in American society. What is Starn’s argument in regards to this issue? (2pts)

Surprisingly, perhaps, the game was an early battle ground in the civil rights movement.

1. Provide three key pieces of information that Starn uses to support his secondary thesis in chapter 5. Provide a one-to-two sentence summary of each piece of data and cite the page(s) in which Starn discusses this information. (6pts)

* 1. The Greensboro six took action five years before the more famous lunchcounter sit-ins and ten years before Martin Luther King Jr.’s march to Selma. (Starn 75)
	2. The Gillespie Park protest was revolutionary action in its own way. This early example of civil disobedience occurred in the very same week that Rosa

Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passage on a Birmingham bus. (Starn 76).

* 1. Joe louis succeeded in being a part of abolishing the Caucasians-only clause in 1961. (Starn 77)