

ENGL 4695 E - Honours Essay Protocols

Description

An honours essay is a supervised senior English studies project of approximately 10,000 words. An honours essay can be a work of creative writing combined with critical reflection, the whole project to be equivalent to a 10,000 word essay. To apply for this course, students require a minimum average of 77% in English.

Process

1. In the spring of third year, a student who wishes to write an honours essay approaches a faculty member with a proposal for an honours essay project. When assessing the viability of this proposal, the faculty member should consider whether the student could fulfill the project within any of the courses offered in the year the honours essay will be completed.
2. With the faculty member's agreement and help, the student prepares a project proposal for discussion and approval at the May meeting of the English Department Council. The student registers for two fourth-year seminars, pending approval of the project.
3. If council approves the project, the supervisor will as soon as possible ask another faculty member to be a second reader.
4. The student registers for ENGL 4695 E and withdraws from the fourth-year seminars.
5. The student prepares a fuller proposal along with a bibliography and work schedule for the October meeting of Council in order to receive further commentary.
6. The student and faculty member meet every two weeks during fall term to discuss readings and plan chapters in order to draft a prospectus or detailed outline of the project. The prospectus or outline should be completed by the reading week of the Fall semester.
7. The student then submits written work approximately every two weeks until the reading week of the winter term. In the week following reading week, the student makes a public presentation of the results of his or her research in order to receive comments and suggestions. The supervisor and second reader grade the presentation.
8. In mid-March the student submits a complete draft to the supervisor and second reader who, if necessary, make suggestions for additional changes.
9. By the last day of classes, the student submits copies of the final draft to the supervisor and second reader.
10. The supervisor, in consultation with the second reader, grades the essay. The supervisor also assigns a grade for the student's work throughout the project.
11. The supervisor conveys final commentary and the project grade to the student. The supervisor may suggest that the student enter the work in the department's Honours Essay contest.
12. The student deposits a copy of the Honours Essay in the English Department.

Marking Scheme

The final grade for the course is broken down as follows:

1. 70% for the final essay
2. 30% for term work, which includes the presentation (10%) and work throughout the project (20%)

A sample of a highly acceptable proposal should accompany these protocols.