

ENGLISH 504: HONOURS PROJECT

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

The Honours Project forms a distinctive and culminating part of the Honours program in English. This opportunity to conceive and execute a research project, and to work closely with a faculty advisor, allows students to synthesize accumulated research skills and subject-matter expertise while pursuing an individual interest. The seminar component of the project provides shared guidance and experience in research and writing methodology. This makes the Honours Project an excellent preparation for graduate thesis work, as well as for any subsequent self-directed research and writing activity. Through the Honours Project, undergraduate students take an important step towards entering the larger community of scholars.

The requirements of ENGL 504 are:

- 1) that the student write an essay on a topic chosen by the student and approved by a faculty supervisor and the Associate Head (Undergraduate) of the English Department, and
- 2) that the student participate in the English 504 Seminar, which meets regularly during the academic year. The project will require the same amount of reading and work as any other senior full-course equivalent, but will demand much more self-direction.

NOTE: IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A SUPERVISOR AND MEET THE PROPOSAL DEADLINES, STARTING IN THE WINTER TERM PREVIOUS TO REGISTRATION IN ENGL504.

Undergraduate student advisors and the Associate Head (Undergraduate) are available for consultation in this process, and can be contacted by e-mail at adveng@ucalgary.ca, or by appointment in SS1152E (call 220-5470 for appointments).

*Because of the seminar component, and the need for summer reading, students must schedule their Honours Project in a twelve-month period that includes a complete academic year (1 September to 30 April). The Department requires Honours students to begin planning their 504 projects during the Winter term preceding the year they undertake English 504. In consultation with their supervisors, students must develop appropriate programs of summer reading. Summer research and early drafting are essential: *by the end of September, each student must have written at least ten pages of text to share with the 504 Seminar group.**

The project itself should be about forty double-spaced, typed pages (with notes and bibliography) and should follow the most recent edition of the MLA handbook (edited by Gibaldi). It may examine any aspect of one author's work, of a literary form, or of a period, providing that topic and critical approach are sufficiently precise to be handled in about forty pages. (Occasionally, with the approval of a qualified supervisor, experienced writers may substitute a creative writing project for an essay.)

The following are titles of some 504 projects recently completed. Previously completed Honours Projects are kept in the Judith Sloman Reading Room (Social Sciences 1114). Consulting these projects may be helpful in formulating your own plans.

“Decolonizing Hybridity: (Re)claiming Voices in New Commonwealth Literatures”

“Impotent Sexual Icons: Masculinity and the Eternal Boy in Cowboy Narratives.”

“Telling Tales to Convey Truth and Meaning: How Narrative Strategies in Michael Herr’s *Dispatches* Reveal the Realities of the Vietnam War.”

“Castle Mountain: Four Short Stories”

"Liberation and Unification: The Dynamics of the Feminine/Masculine Equilibrium in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and *The Last Man*."

"Re-Generating *Cymbeline*: Fathers and Daughters in Shakespearean Romance."

"The Theme of Sanctification in the Work of George Herbert: *The Temple*."

SCHEDULE

February 1

Deadline to apply for admission to Honours. Students apply through their Student’s Centre and must apply before the Fall term in which they intend to take ENGL 504.

Students must submit work by the scheduled deadlines. *The schedule from September to March may vary slightly with each year’s seminar.*

By the end of Winter Term

The student contacts a supervisor who is eligible and willing to work with that student on an English 504 project. Students may wish to begin this step as early as the preceding Fall term, since a prospective supervisor may be on sabbatical in the coming year, or be unavailable for various reasons.

Undergraduate advisors are available for consultation in cases of difficulty finding a 504 supervisor.

May 15: The student submits to the Associate Head (Undergraduate):

- (1) a 504 application form
- (2) an initial proposal of about 300-500 words, of the topic, issue, or question he/she will consider over the summer;
- (3) a preliminary reading list.

The supervisor’s signature constitutes acceptance of the student’s proposed topic and an agreement to supervise the thesis. *Students cannot register in English 504 before they have been notified by the department that they have been accepted into the seminar.*

Application forms can be obtained from the department office (SS1152) or by contacting Karen Preddy at karen.preddy@ucalgary.ca

End of September: The student gives to the seminar leader and her/his supervisor a revised proposal and ten pages of text, part of the first draft of the honours project.

By the end of Reading Week: A rough draft of the Honours Project is presented to the student's supervisor.

End of Winter Term: The student submits the final, revised 504 project to his/her supervisor and to the seminar leader for deposit in the Judith Sloman Reading Room.

English 504 Seminar:

Students enrolled in English 504 will participate in a regular seminar, led by one or more faculty members. The seminar will be conducted as a workshop based on students' individual research and writing and will also emphasize specific research, writing and professional skills, such as proposal writing, small group writing workshops, seminar presentations of work-in-progress, library research, conference paper planning and presentation, and so on. The goal of the seminar is to facilitate the writing of the 504 Project by providing a context where students can explore issues involved in the planning and writing of a long research project.

Grades in English 504:

Sixty percent of the final grade will be assigned by the student's supervisor, and will reflect the quality of the final version of the essay. Forty percent will be assigned by the seminar leader, and will reflect not so much the final result as the process of research, writing, and seminar interaction. The seminar leader will be responsible for combining the two components and reporting the final grade.

Revised January 2019 JW/KP

Application for English 504 (Honours seminar)

Please attach your proposal to this application form and submit both to the Department of English (Associate Head, Undergraduate) by May 15.

Name: _____

Student ID# _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing address: _____

Have you applied to the Honours programme? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, do you know if you have been accepted into Honours? _____

Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's signature (this signature indicates agreement to supervise the Honours project and approval of the initial proposal):

A copy of your proposal will be forwarded to the seminar leader for next year. You will be informed by e-mail of your acceptance into the seminar early in the summer, and will be registered in the Honours seminar by the department by August. If you have not applied to the Honours programme, be sure to do so by contacting the Student Success Centre by the appropriate deadline. Student Success Centre is located on the 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre, email success@ucalgary.ca or call 403-220-5881.