

Requirements Toward the Fulfillment of Honors in English A Thesis in Literature
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Eligibility: 3.5 major 3.0 overall GPA; sign up for three hours of Independent Study each semester, for a total of six credit hours.

Prerequisites: six courses in literature, film, or theory. Consent of the Thesis Advisor.

Begin March 1 of junior year:

With the aid of the Thesis Advisor, student generates a summer reading list to include:

1. Six primary readings of author, theme, genre, movement, or issue under study.
 2. Four secondary readings (critical or cultural studies, biography, letters, etc.) bearing on topic.
- This reading list is due to your Thesis Advisor by March 31, and reading can begin at any point after approval of the list.

By September 1 of senior year:

1. Summer reading list must be completed. For the six primary readings, a one-page, single-spaced essay is due which explores the central issues of each particular work. Knowledge gleaned from the four secondary readings can inform the critical lexicon of these papers.
2. Ten thematic paragraphs, representing the chief ideas of the thesis, must be handed in to the Thesis Advisor. These should be paragraphs such as the student intends to include in the thesis. The paragraphs do not need to be in a finished stage, but neither should they be first drafts.
3. A new reading list for the fall semester is due comprised of ten books allied to the summer readings, focusing and developing the topic.

Student and Thesis Advisor will set a regular meeting time for the fall semester. Meetings will occur every other week for forty-five minutes, for a minimum of seven meetings. If the student has an unexcused absence and fails to show up for a scheduled meeting, the Thesis Advisor will then designate the project an Independent Study instead of an Honors Thesis. If the student fails to show up for two scheduled meetings, the Thesis Advisor may resign from directing the project.

The Thesis Advisor will advise a maximum of two theses.

By January 10 of senior year:

1. Two finished chapters (out of a total of three to five--a minimum of forty percent of the whole) will be submitted.
2. One-page response papers to five books from the fall semester will be submitted.
3. A new reading list of five books of the student's choice for the spring semester will be prepared.

By March 31 of senior year:

The final draft of the thesis is due to the Thesis Advisor for remarks, minor suggestions, and grading. The final thesis, to be eligible for Departmental Honors, must be a minimum of fifty pages, excluding documentation (which should be MLA format), and should open with a brief, informal Preface and a Table of Contents; the bound version of the thesis will have the approved cover sheet. Copies of the bound thesis will be supplied to the Thesis Advisor and to the English Department, via the Honors Thesis Program Director.

By April 5 the Thesis Advisor will return the manuscript to the student, who will address any further issues and submit the revised, completed thesis to the Thesis Advisor and second reader by **April 15**.

Second Reader: Every departmental honors thesis will be read by a second reader, either the

Director of English Department Honors or someone deputed by that person. The second reader will not grade the work but may consult with the Thesis Advisor on the grade.□The purpose of the second reader is to offer a kind of objective vantage point on all theses written in a given year, as well as to act as the last proofreader.□The thesis, however, should be technically perfect at the time of submission to the Director of Departmental Honors. **Do not bind the thesis until it has been reviewed by the second reader.**

If these requirements are not met, the status of the course will change to an English 499 Independent Study, and the work will be graded according to the amount accomplished.□ The Honors in English designation is reserved for students whose ambition and scholarship meet our highest expectations.