

**Requirements Towards the Fulfillment of Honors in English**  
**A Thesis in Creative Nonfiction**

**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: A208 (Writing from Sources), Consent of Thesis Advisor.**

**Begin March 1 of junior year:**

The student generates a summer reading list to include:

1. Two contemporary collections of short nonfiction.
2. Four books of nonfiction.
3. Regular reading of magazines.

This reading list is due to the Thesis Advisor by March 31, and reading can begin at any point after approval of the list.

**By September 1 of senior year:**

1. The summer reading list must be completed. Twelve one-page, single-spaced essays are due that explore the approach of a particular author.
2. One original piece of nonfiction, intended for inclusion in the thesis, must be handed in to your thesis advisor. It does not need to be at a finished stage.
3. A new reading list is due comprised of seven books and regular magazine reading. This will be your reading for semester one.

**Student and Thesis Advisor will set a regular meeting time.** Meetings will occur every other week for 45 minutes for a minimum of seven meetings to review the reading and to develop drafts of essays, twenty-five pages each term. If the student has an unexcused absence for a scheduled meeting, the Thesis Advisor may then designate the project as 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 advising the project.

The Thesis Advisor will advise a maximum of one thesis.

**By January 10 of senior year:**

1. Thirty finished pages.
2. A new reading list of four books of the student's choice for spring semester.

**By March 31 of senior year:**

The final draft, of fifty pages, is due to your Thesis Advisor for remarks, minor suggestions, and grading. The final thesis, to be eligible for Departmental Honors, must contain a short reflective essay that will set the thesis in the context of the readings done throughout the year. For example, a student may explore which authors influenced the essays and where that influence manifests itself in the thesis, whether imitations of specific writers were ventured, and what the student has learned from the entire scholarly and artistic project. The final thesis should open with a title page followed by a brief preface with acknowledgements, a table of contents, the introductory essay, and the stories; the bound version of the thesis will include the approved cover sheet after the title page. □The author must supply copies of the bound thesis to the Thesis Advisor and to the English Department, via the Honors Thesis Program Director.

**By April 5** the Thesis Advisor will return manuscript to the student, who will address any final issues and submit the revised thesis to the Thesis Advisor and second reader by **April 15. No changes can be made after that date.**

**Second Reader:** Every honors thesis will be read by a second reader, either the Director of English Department Honors or someone deputed by that person, who will offer consultation on a grade but who will not grade the work. The purpose of the second reader is to offer an 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 immaculate at the time of submission to the Director of Departmental Honors. Identifying mechanical errors is not at the heart of the second reader's task. **Do not bind the thesis until it has been reviewed by the second reader.**

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