

Guidelines for the Senior Honors Project in English

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

3300: 482 SENIOR HONORS PROJECT IN ENGLISH 1-3 credits
(May be repeated for a total of six credits). Prerequisites: Completion of 3300:111 and 3300:112 or their equivalents, or permission of the instructor, senior standing in Honors College and approval of honors preceptor; open only to English majors enrolled in Honors College; 64 credit hours required to enroll. Independent study leading to completion of senior honors thesis or other original work.

RECOMMENDED TIMELINE FOR PROJECT COMPLETION

JUNIOR YEAR, first semester: Discuss project requirements with Dr. Chura (honors advisor)

second semester: Identify faculty sponsor and two additional readers. Write project proposal and obtain signatures. *Project proposals are due in the Honors College office at the end of junior year.*

SENIOR YEAR, first semester: Meet regularly with faculty sponsor and set deadlines for first stages of the project. By the end of this semester, the student is expected to have drafted a substantial portion of the project. A semester grade of "IP" from the faculty sponsor means that the sponsor is satisfied that the project is on track for successful completion.

second semester: Meet regularly with faculty sponsor. By the end of week 13, the project should be in the hands of secondary readers.

CREDIT HOURS AND GRADING

- Honors projects in English may consist of 2-6 total credit hours.
- For projects of 6 credit hours, students are encouraged to register for 3 credit hours in each of the final two semesters before graduation.
- A maximum of 3 credit hours from the Honors Project may be used to meet English Department course distribution requirements.

DUE DATES:

For Project Proposals: Students should be planning for the Honors Research Project during the junior year. For most students, the proposal due date is a year prior to graduation. If you will be completing 96 or more credits during a particular semester, then that is the semester in which your proposal is due. Proposal due dates, and the Project Proposal form, are available on the Honors College website. <http://www.uakron.edu/honors/>

For Project Drafts: i) **Initial drafts to your research Sponsor:** You should be updating your research Sponsor every few weeks as you meet to discuss your

project. Expect revisions to be requested as you submit written work. You should have a nearly final draft of the project submitted to your research Sponsor by the **twelfth week of the semester**.

ii) Subsequent drafts to your two readers: Be sure to keep your Readers informed of your progress on the project throughout your final semester. Send them copies of your work at regular intervals. Expect revisions based on your Readers' comments. Once you've incorporated changes from your Readers, your Sponsor needs to approve the final copy. The due date for your project to be with your readers is the **thirteenth week of the semester**. It is your Sponsor who gives you the grade for the formal coursework.

iii) Submission of your abstract to the Honors College office. The abstract of your project will be included in graduation materials. Please prepare the abstract according to the guidelines given on the Honors College website. Electronic submissions or abstracts are welcome. The abstract is due on the same day as the completed project—the fourteenth week of the semester. If you do not submit your abstract by this date, it will not appear in the graduation booklet.

iv) Final submission of your project to the Honors College office. Your research project may also be submitted electronically. Alternately, an unbound and unstapled copy of your project, together with the signature page, should be on file in the Honors office no later than 5 PM on the final day of the **fourteenth week of the semester**. **For May 2012 graduates, the due date for submission of completed projects to the Honors Office is April 15, 2012.**

PROJECT LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

The faculty sponsor is responsible for ensuring the academic rigor of the project. However, the following directives should be used as a guide:

Literary Research or Analysis Projects

- **3-credit literary analysis project:** 22-25 double-spaced pages or a minimum of 7,500 words.
- **6-credit literary analysis project:** 44-50 double-spaced pages or a minimum of 15,000 words.
- Length requirements for analysis projects of **2, 4 or 5 credits** should be set in accordance with these guidelines by the faculty sponsor.

Short Stories, Poetry and Creative Nonfiction Projects have a three-part structure consisting of: (1) a critical essay of 8 to 10 pages, designed to give the student an opportunity to come to terms with authors whom the student finds important as influences, (2) a 5-7 page self-analysis or self-evaluation focusing on the work submitted for the Honors Project, and (3) a body of creative work.

Length requirements for the creative portion of the project:

- **poetry projects: 3 credits,** 15 pages of poetry. **6 credits,** 30 pages.
- **fiction or creative nonfiction projects: 3 credits:** 20 double-spaced pages or a minimum of 6,000 words. **6 credits,** 40 double-spaced pages or a minimum of 12,000 words.
- Length requirements for creative projects of **2, 4 or 5 credits** should be set in accordance with these guidelines by the faculty sponsor.