

COMPLETING THE HONORS THESIS

- 1) The maximum number of hours of ENG 403 (thesis) for an honors student is 8 hours, 4 hours a term for two terms, ordinarily the first two terms of the student's senior year.
- 2) An honors student may take fewer than 8 hours of ENG 403, provided that the thesis director agrees; the amount of work required should be worked out between the student and director, using a typical 4-hour upper-division English course as the standard for determining the number of hours. An honors student can use each 4-credit ENG 403 to count as one upper division elective in the English major provided that the thesis credits are graded.
- 3) The defense of the thesis before the committee of thesis director and second reader regularly takes place near the end of the second term of ENG 403 (usually the end of winter term of the student's final year of classes; in some cases, the defense may take place at the end of spring term). The final draft of the thesis should be presented to the thesis director and second reader at least 2 weeks before the scheduled oral defense. The thesis defense must take place no later than the end of the 9th week of the term in which the student plans to graduate.
- 4) The thesis must be an original document written in most cases for the sole purpose of fulfilling the honors program requirement in English. Beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, Clark Honors College English Majors who have been accepted into the English Honors Program and complete the requirements for both the Clark Honors College Thesis and the English Honors Program may submit an English Honors Thesis awarded a Pass or Pass with Distinction to fulfill the thesis requirement for both English Department Honors and the Clark Honors College Thesis. Otherwise, students may not use the thesis for degree credit or to fulfill honors requirements in other units, except with special approval of the English Honors Program Director, the Director of English Undergraduate Studies, and the English Curriculum Committee.
- 5) An electronic final version of the honors thesis should be submitted to the Director of the English Honors Program **AFTER** the oral presentation and including changes recommended by the student's committee. Margins should be 1¼ inches; this version should include a cover page properly formatted (see online template).
- 6) The main point about style in the honors thesis is to have consistency throughout. The standard for scholarship in literature is the *Modern Language Style Manual* (MLA). Acceptable alternatives to MLA style include *The University of Chicago Style Manual* and the style standards set in the textbook used in departmental writing courses. If in doubt, please follow the MLA style manual.

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