



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

English Honours 2012

The English Honours course at the University of Tasmania provides an opportunity for students to study a range of literary studies units at advanced level and to complete a substantial piece of research work. It is designed to introduce students to the advanced study of English and the many possibilities that currently fall under that disciplinary heading, and to provide opportunities for qualifying for postgraduate work in the field. The course comprises four units of coursework and a directed research project.

Honours Coordinator

Dr Rose Gaby

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Enrolment

Intending Honours students can apply by web or by post by following the instructions for application for admission on the University's web pages at:

<http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/admissions/applyweb.html>. Advanced Honours students do not need to apply for admission, but will be sent a fast-track enrolment package from the faculty office.

Before completing their enrolment all students should contact the Honours coordinator to discuss their course structure and to nominate an area of study for their research project.

Full-time students must enrol in the “umbrella course” HEA400 along with HEA460 Research Project A and HEA461 Research Project B. They must also enrol in the compulsory 25% unit, HEA408 Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing, and another two 12.5% coursework units.

Part-time students must enrol in the “umbrella course” HEA401 and will normally complete Honours over four semesters. They are advised to take their coursework units over their first 2 semesters, then HEA460 Research Project A and HEA461 Research Project B in semesters 3 and 4. Other course structures (including a 3-semester course) may be arranged through consultation with the Honours coordinator.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available for students undertaking Honours at the University of Tasmania. Of relevance for English students are the Cultural Environment and Heritage Honours Scholarships (8 awards), and the Tasmania Honours

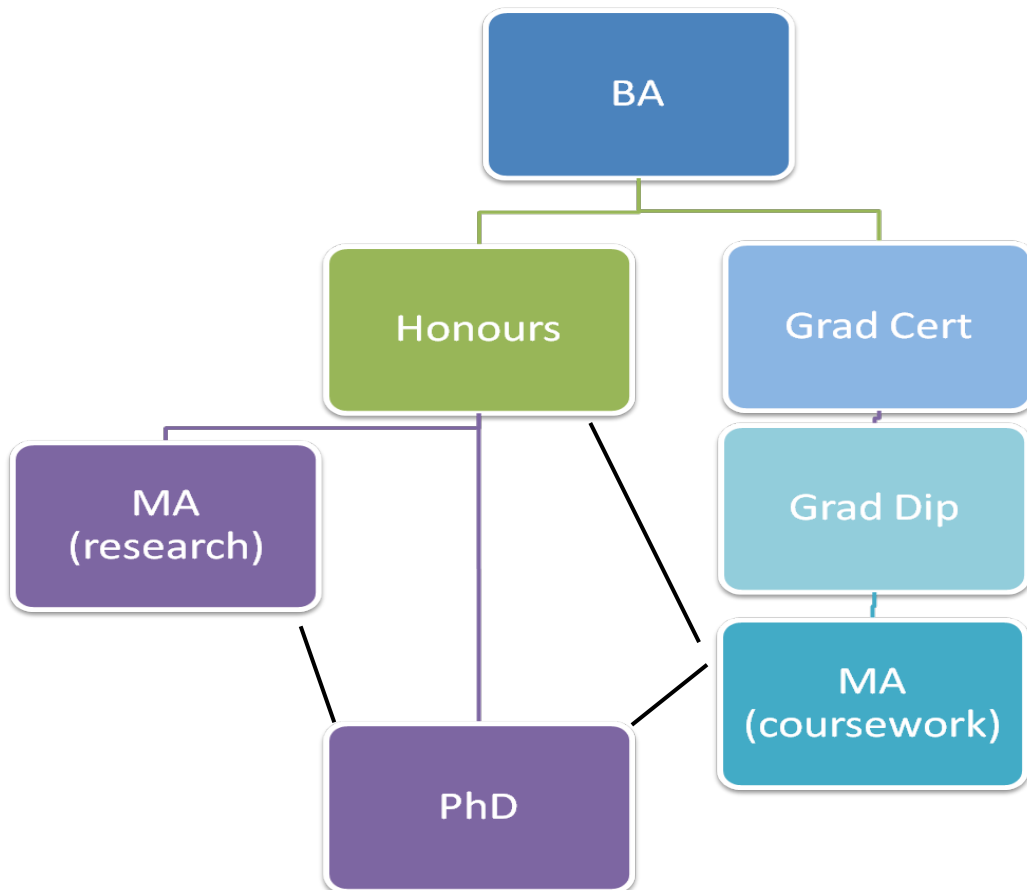
Scholarships (10 awards). Information on scholarships for Honours students is available at <http://www.scholarships.utas.edu.au>

Further information on CEH projects is available at <http://colonial.arts.utas.edu.au/cehomepage.html>

The closing date for Honours scholarship applications is 31 October. Mid-year scholarships close on 30 June.

Postgraduate pathways

An English Honours degree is highly valued because it indicates to future employers that the graduate has acquired advanced skills in research, analysis, writing, editing and in the general presentation of ideas. Some students, however, choose to use their Honours degree as a stepping stone to a research higher degree. Graduates with a strong result at Honours level may be accepted directly into a PhD program or an MA research degree. It is also currently possible for Honours graduates to complete an MA coursework degree through one semester of further study.



Coursework Units 2012

Students must complete 3 coursework units as part of their Honours program, including the compulsory unit, HEA408 Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing. Students may take two coursework units in semester 1 (37.5%) and one unit in semester 2 (12.5%), or they can spread their coursework across the year. Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing will be taught intensively in weeks 1, 2, 6, 11 and 12, and elective units will normally be taught in weekly 3-hour seminars running for 9 weeks. Honours seminars are interactive and usually require students to prepare in-class presentations. Honours students are expected to have completed all required reading prior to their seminars, so it is important to start reading the set texts as early as possible, preferably before the course begins.

Level 400 Units, Semester 1, 2012:

HEA408 Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing (25%)

HEA475 Shakespeare's Stage (12.5%)

HEA433 Literary Theory (for postgraduate coursework students who have not completed the prerequisite units HEA330 Literary Theory or HEA333 Ideas of Authorship) (12.5%)

Level 400 Units, Semester 2, 2011:

HEA403 Creative Writing (12.5%)

HEA421 Fictions of the Far South (12.5%)

HEA408 Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing

Coordinator: Professor Ralph Crane

This unit aims to develop students' research and writing skills in literary studies to advanced levels. The specific focus of the unit will be on bibliographical methodologies, the practices of critical writing, the stages of a research project, and scholarly editing.

HEA475 Shakespeare's Stage: The Play of Power

Coordinator: Dr Rose Gaby

Elizabethan and Jacobean players were largely excluded from earning a living within the boundaries of respectable London. Instead they entertained the city from its margins, with plays of remarkable violence, wit and sensuality. Their theatre survived by reshaping narratives of the distant past or of exotic foreign locations, but the plays still engaged with the deepest conflicts and contradictions of their own time and place. Much recent work on Shakespeare and his contemporaries has been concerned with the difficult task of interpreting the relationship between the plays and the culture that produced them. This unit provides opportunities to test some of this work against a selection of Elizabethan and Jacobean histories, tragedies and comedies which depict dynamic power struggles within the family and the state.

HEA403 Creative Writing: Theory & Practice in Poetry & Short Fiction

Coordinator: Dr Danielle Wood

This unit enables students to build on their undergraduate creative writing experience and work towards producing a publishable work of literary short fiction. In addition to writing a work of short fiction, students will be required to produce an essay in which they reflect on specific aspects of writing craft. The scope of each student's creative work, and their essay topic, will be determined in consultation with the unit coordinator. Participants will share and develop their writing in a workshop setting and will be expected to read and critique the work of other students.

HEA421 Fictions of the Far South

Coordinator: Dr Elle Leane

What stories have been told about the south polar continent since its existence was first hypothesized? What are the genres, themes, motifs and metaphors through which we imagine Antarctica? How have these changed with increasing access to the region? How do writers engage with recent debates about Antarctica, including those relating to the environment, mineral resources, tourism and international politics? This unit offers students the opportunity to respond to these questions by examining a selection of the rich body of texts the continent has provoked over the last few centuries. These may be drawn from a variety of genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, diaries, exploration narratives and travel writing.

Assessment

The English Honours program is weighted so that the coursework units comprise 50% of the final Honours result. There are no exams for Honours units. Research Methodology and Scholarly Editing will entail a range of assessment tasks (Annotated Bibliography 30%; Research Proposal 20%; Critique 20%; Editing Project 30%) and the elective units will generally require one 5000-word essay. Students must pass all coursework units as well as the Honours Research Project to obtain an Honours degree.

The Honours Research Project

The Honours research project is an important part of the Honours program. The project is undertaken over two semesters (under the codes HEA460 and HEA461) and provides an exciting opportunity for students to do extended research and writing on a topic of their choice under the supervision of a staff member with expertise in that field. The project will take the form of a research essay of 12,500 words or a creative writing or editing project of comparable scope. Students should submit a short project proposal to the Honours Coordinator by November 30th for semester 1 enrolments, or June 30th for commencement in semester 2. We have to ensure that staff have equitable workloads and sufficient time to devote to supervisions so we are not able to guarantee supervision in all areas. To avoid the worry of needing to reconsider your research topic it is vital to choose a topic that fits within the research areas covered by the school and to make time to discuss possible topics with us as early as possible.

General research areas:

- Contemporary fiction
- Nineteenth-century fiction
- Postcolonial studies
- Screen studies
- Shakespeare Studies
- Renaissance Literature
- Theatre studies
- Science fiction
- Human-animal studies
- Representations of Antarctica
- Australian literary and cultural studies
- Ecocriticism
- Literary Theory
- Creative writing
- Travel writing

Research interests of English staff

Dr Robert Clarke

Travel writing with a focus on Australian travel writing; contemporary Australian fiction, especially the treatment of the theme of reconciliation; literary celebrity; the relationships between and debates concerning the writing of history and fiction; “celebrity colonialism”; and creative nonfiction.

Prof Ralph Crane

Anglo-Indian fiction; Indian English fiction; the fiction of J.G. Farrell
Also: the theory and practise of Imperial Whiteness; New Zealand fiction.

Dr Lisa Fletcher

Representations of gender and sexuality in popular fiction; literature and film; Island narratives (especially Mutiny on the Bounty); theory (especially feminist theory, queer theory, theories of performativity).

Dr Rose Gaby

Shakespeare on stage and screen; Elizabethan and Jacobean drama; Tasmanian theatre history; Australian and open-air Shakespeares; Restoration and modern drama.

Dr Elizabeth Leane

Representations of Antarctica in literature, and the culture of Antarctic communities; the relationship between literature and science; science fiction (see Elle’s bibliography of Antarctic literature and film at:
http://www.utas.edu.au/english/Representations_of_Antarctica/).

Dr Narelle Shaw

Contemporary Australian fiction; ecocriticism (Australian literature) and Australian satire.

Dr Hannah Stark

Literary theory; continental philosophy (particularly Gilles Deleuze); ethical theory; gender and sexuality; embodiment; representations of intimacy in contemporary texts (particularly of family); women’s artistic practice.

Dr Danielle Wood

Creative writing.

Facilities and Assistance

Study Room

Honours students have access to a shared study room (Soc Sci 317). The room is accessed using a proxy (aka swipe) card. The room is available for use by students studying Honours & Postgraduate coursework programs in the Faculty of Arts.

Inter-library loans

Honours students have access to the Document Delivery Service, which means that the library will track down necessary resources for you from other libraries in Australia or overseas if they are not held at this University. You can register for Document Delivery online by following the instructions at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/info/dd/index.html>.

Photocopying

At honours level you will be contributing to the research activity of the School and in recognition of this we give you some help towards photocopying costs. A one-off payment of \$30 will be credited to your student card. It is a good idea to give priority to inter-library loan photocopying, as these resources cannot be requested twice.

Removing the Boundaries

Honours students are encouraged to take part in School activities and especially to attend our fortnightly term-time seminar series, "Removing the Boundaries." You can find a list of speakers and topics on the web at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/rtb.htm>.

Thesis Collection

Copies of honours research projects completed by previous students within the school are held in the library. Recent titles include:

- "The Museum Cottage Fact and F(r)iction in Museological Space: Writing Possible Histories" (2006)
- "'Words are very loud, if only you can use them': The Loudness of Words in the Story of Ned Kelly" (2006)
- "The architecture of art and lies" (2007)
- "Over the horizon with Charles Sturt: space and narrative in the central Australian expedition 1844-1846" (2007)
- "*Cloud Atlas* writes to a cloud atlas" (2008)
- "Who Wears the Pants: Gender and Power in Trevor Nunn's *Twelfth Night* and Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*" (2008)
- "Representations of the Terrorist in Contemporary British Drama" (2008)
- "Writes of Passage: The Waldheim Chalet: Visitors' books as Liminal Texts" (2009)
- "Rethinking Adaptation: Words, Images, *Atonement*" (2009)
- "The Walls of Babylon: black identity in the travel writing of Caryl Phillips" (2009)
- "The Simulacrum's Revenge: The Postmodern Uncanny in the Early Films of David Cronenberg" (2010)
- "Domesticating the Vampire: Romance, Gender and Sexuality in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight Saga*" (2010)
- "Unspeakable Stories: Confessions of Child Trauma in Contemporary Fiction"