



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

English Honours 2009



Welcome to English honours 2009. Honours can be a rewarding but also very challenging year, so please take note of the following information and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or problems.

Honours Coordinator

Dr Rose Gaby

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Office Hours (semester 1): Tuesdays 2-3; Wednesdays 2.30-3.30

Staying in Contact

It is very important for us to keep in contact with you during the honours year. The most effective way for us to keep in touch with the whole class is via email. Individual staff will use email to stay in contact and bring matters to your attention. Students are also encouraged to email each other. All students are expected to check their University email regularly. Note that we will use your official University email address.

Enrolment

It is important to get your enrolment details correct so that your results can be properly recorded and so that you do not incur extra HECs. Your final result for honours will be recorded against your Umbrella code which, for students enrolling in 2009, should be either HEA400 (full-time) or HEA401 (part-time).

Full-time students must enrol in the 'umbrella course' HEA400, and in HEA460 Research Project A and HEA461 Research Project B (note that although the Research Project has two codes it remains a single project). Full-time students must also enrol in four elective coursework units chosen from the list below. Part-time students must enrol in the 'umbrella course' HEA401 and will normally complete honours over four semesters. They usually take their elective units in year 1, then HEA460 and 461 Research Project in year 2, but other course structures may be arranged through consultation with the honours coordinator.

Elective Units 2009:

Note: A strict quota of 15 students applies to all elective units.

Semester 1

HEA405 Australian Textual Cultures
HEA410 Fourteenth-century Literature
HEA419 Contemporary Travel Narratives

Semester 2

HEA404 Colonial Adventure Fiction
HEA475 Shakespeare's Stage: The Play of Power

Teaching arrangements

Research Methodology

In 2009 all students enrolled to undertake the Research Project are required to attend Research Methodology classes. The classes will be taught through 3x3-hour seminars scheduled for the first week of each semester during the hours timetabled for Honours elective units. Students will normally attend during the first semester of their enrolment in the Research Project, under the code HEA460 Research Project A. The 3 seminars are a compulsory part of the Research Project, but they are not assessed.

Elective Units

All elective units will be taught in weekly 3-hour seminars starting in the second week of each semester and running for 9 weeks. Because of the length of these sessions it is particularly important that you attend all seminars. If you can't make it to class for some reason you should notify your unit coordinator. It is also a minimum expectation that you will have completed the set reading for each week and be prepared to contribute to discussions. Most classes require students to do in-class presentations. These should be taken seriously as part of the learning process and as an opportunity to test ideas and approaches for the unit essay. **If a student fails to complete an unmarked but compulsory class presentation the unit's assessment will be marked out of 80% rather than 100%. Where the presentation is done but not to a satisfactory level, the assessment can be marked within the range of 80 – 99%.**

Coursework assessment

You will be expected to produce written work equivalent to 5000 words for each of your elective units. Honours essays differ significantly from most undergraduate work. You need to regard them as mini research projects that will require forward planning and consultation with your unit coordinator. It is important to start work on the essays as early as possible during the semester. There will be time to focus on essay-writing at the end of semester, but you should have your work well underway before teaching ends. Take especial note of the comments and criticisms on your essays, and see staff to clarify any issues, if necessary. Marks will be given as grades only, not numerical marks.

Submission of written work

Individual unit coordinators may specify earlier due dates for some pieces of work but **the final deadline for all course-work assignments in semester 1 2009 is Monday, May 25. The final deadline for all course-work assignments in semester 2 2009 is Monday, October 12th.** Assignments must be submitted in hard-copy form (not by email) to the School office by 4.30 pm on the due date.

Late Penalties

Late penalties for assessment in all honours 12.5% coursework units will apply at the rate of 10% per day for five days, after which the result will be 0%. In exceptional circumstances students may apply for an extension for the submission of their work, but you must contact the honours coordinator *before* the relevant due date.

Honours Marking Scale

HF	80-100	Honours – first class
HU	70-79	Honours – second class upper division
HL	60-69	Honours – second class lower division
HT	50-59	Honours – third class
HN	0-49	Honours failure

It is important to remember that the marking scale for honours is different from that used at undergraduate levels. The upper second class range of 70-79% is equivalent to the 75-79% distinction range for undergraduate work. Similarly the lower second class range of 60-69% is equivalent to an undergraduate low distinction (70-74%). To be competitive for scholarships, you need to achieve a strong HF result. This is relevant to those of you who wish to continue with academic work. However, one of the many challenges of honours is retaining focus on each of the tasks at hand and not being overwhelmed by investments in the year.

Referencing essays

At honours level you will use MLA referencing style. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). Note also our online guide at:
<http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/referencing.htm>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is regarded as a particularly serious offence at honours level. As at undergraduate level, students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism.

Facilities and Assistance

Honours Room

Honours students have access to a shared Honours 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. Proxy cards can be purchased from the TUU contact centre. Current student ID must be produced and an application form completed at the time of purchase. To have the card activated for use with the Honours Room please email SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au with the following information:

- Your name
- Your student ID number
- The number on your proxy card

You will receive a reply by email to let you know that your email has been received and when your card will be ready for use.

Note: if you already have a proxy card from previous study you do not need to purchase another one. Each card can be activated with multiple access permissions.

Student Rep

There is provision for an honours representative to attend School meetings. If you are interested in taking on this role then please speak to your fellow honours students and to the coordinator. It is useful for the honours class to have a designated representative for liaison with the school.

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. Inter-library loans currently attract no charges, but all requests have to be approved by your supervisor. This is done by simply citing your supervisor's email address on the honours request form on the web. 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.

Mail

Incoming mail will be held for you in the honours pigeon hole in Room 554 in Hobart and in the general office in Launceston.

Removing the Boundaries

Honours students are encouraged to take part in School activities and especially to attend our term-time seminar series, "Removing the Boundaries," fortnightly on Fridays at 4 in room 555. 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.

The Honours Research Project

The honours research project provides an exciting opportunity for students to pursue their own interests and develop new research, writing, and time-management skills. Students commencing their research project in semester 1, 2009 should meet with the Honours Coordinator to discuss possible topics and supervision arrangements as soon as possible. Once we have found an appropriate supervisor for you, it is your responsibility to arrange a meeting to discuss your research program. 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.

Research interests of available English staff in 2009 and sample suggested topics:

Dr Victoria Burrows (*not available for supervision during semester 2*)

Whiteness studies, feminist literature and theory, colonialism and sites of postcolonial resistance in literature and theory, and readings of trauma and shame and their literary applications

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.

Suggested topics:

- Celebrity within colonial and postcolonial cultures
- Aboriginality and Australian travel writing
- Australian literature and the discourses, politics, and ethics of Reconciliation

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

Suggested topics:

- Mixed Marriage in Maud Diver's *Lilamani* Quartet
- Revisiting the Indian Mutiny in J.G. Farrell's *The Siege of Krishanpur*

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).

Suggested topics:

- New directions in popular romance fiction.
- The Mutiny on the *Bounty* on page &/or screen
- Judith Butler and critical heterosexuality studies

Dr Rose Gaby

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

- *Hamlet* in Hobart: a comparative study of selected productions from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
- From stage play to screenplay: adapting infidelity in Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* and Patrick Marber's *Closer*.

Dr Elizabeth Leane (*not available for supervision during semester 2*)

Representations of Antarctica in literature, and the culture of Antarctic communities; the relationship between literature and science; science fiction

Suggested topics:

- Antarctica in Pulp Science Fiction Magazines
- Three Things: A Comparative Analysis of John W. Campbell's "Who Goes There?" (1938), Howard Hawks's *Thing from Another World* (1951), and John Carpenter's *The Thing* (1982)
- Female Transformation Narratives in Recent Antarctic Writing

(see Elle's bibliography of Antarctic literature and film at

http://www.utas.edu.au/english/Representations_of_Antarctica/)

Dr Philip Mead (*not available for supervision during semester 2*)

Australian book history; innovative and experimental poetry and poetics; Tasmanian literature and culture; Australian Shakespeares

Suggested topics:

- Modernism's *annus mirabilis* (1922) in Australia
- Edward Kemp's *A Voice from Tasmania* (1846)

Dr Jenna Mead (*not available for supervision during semester 2*)

Medieval English literature; feminist and critical theory; postcolonial literature and theory; cultural studies (film and popular fiction)

Dr Narelle Shaw

Contemporary Australian fiction, ecocriticism (Australian literature) and Australian satire

Suggested topics:

- Aesthetics in the technological age
- the pleasures of satire in the light of contemporary theory

Research Project Supervision

Regular consultations with your supervisor will be necessary throughout the year. The frequency and duration of consultations may vary according to the stage of your research, but six to eight meetings is the norm over the course of the project. Ask your supervisor about their preferred mode of submission of material (ie, electronic or hard copy) and any other practical issues that might facilitate the process. If you need to see your supervisor outside your agreed meeting times, please make an appointment via telephone or email.

The honours research project is the first time most of you will have undertaken independent research at university. Accordingly, there will be many new aspects to this task including the depth of research, the word length, and the formulation and development of your own topic and intellectual position. The supervisor will provide guidance on the specific topic and on the process of structuring the essay, but it is important to remember that the long essay is an independent research project and it is the students' responsibility to follow their own research paths and to write and structure their essays. Your supervisor will provide advice and critiques of your work but the responsibility for writing and editing the essay remains with you.

Don't forget that the honours coordinator is also available for help with any matters not directly related to the research topic.

Research Project Submission

You must submit three copies of the research project, presented according to current MLA style. Some students choose to have their work bound, but this is not a requirement. The project must be submitted in hard copy form, with a signed cover sheet tucked inside, to the School office in either Launceston or Hobart by 4.30 pm on the due date. If your research project is a long essay the word length is **12,500** words (*excluding* your List of Works Cited, but *including* all other material). You should meet this requirement but not exceed it by more than 500-1000 words. Word lengths for creative writing projects will be negotiated with your supervisor.

The honours research project due date is regarded as an exam date. Any request for an extension must be submitted in advance of the due date and be accompanied by the same level of documentation as an application for a deferred exam.

Late projects will NOT be accepted so it is crucial that you submit the research project on the due date:

Semester 1 2009, **Friday June 5** (for students who commenced the research project in 2008) *or*
Semester 2 2009, **Friday October 23** (for students who commenced the research project in semester 1 2009)

Research Project Assessment Criteria

The following criteria are of particular importance to research essays:

1. Research skills

- Evidence of well-developed information retrieval skills
- Evidence of familiarity with previous and recent work in the field of inquiry
- Ability to identify relevant materials
- Ability to formulate a viable topic

2. Clarity and strength of argument

- Ability to construct an engaging, persuasive argument
- Capacity to develop and sustain the argument throughout the essay
- Ability to present an effective conclusion that draws the long essay together

3. Contribution to knowledge

- Evidence of independent thinking
- Contribution to knowledge or understanding of a subject as appropriate to honours level

4. Structure and writing style

- Ability to structure the essay in a clear and logical way
- Ability to write lucidly
- Accuracy of grammar, punctuation and spelling

5. Presentation and observation of scholarly conventions

- Quality of layout and general presentation
- Correctness of referencing techniques

Research Projects in Creative Writing will have closely-linked creative and commentary components, each worth 50% for the purpose of assessment. These two components should be considered as equal in scope though not necessarily in word-length. Word lengths for the creative and commentary components of your project will be finalised in discussion with your supervisor.

The commentary component will be assessed according to the same criteria as other English honours research projects (see above). The creative component will be assessed according to a range of criteria, but the following are of particular importance:

- Creativity
- Use of form
- Use of language
- Editorial consistency and polish

Additionally, you will be assessed on the effectiveness with which you have linked the creative and commentary components of the project.

Research Project Grades

HF 80-100 Honours – first class

These projects will be highly accomplished in all areas and will be characterized by a consistently excellent standard. Students producing work of this quality are considered worthy of a postgraduate research scholarship. A result at the higher end of this scale indicates that the student may be producing publishable work.

HU 70-79 Honours – second class upper division

The upper second class range of 70-79% is equivalent to the 75-79% distinction range for undergraduate work. Work in this range will be very competent, but with some inconsistencies in meeting at least one of the assessment criteria. Students producing work of this standard may still have the potential to undertake effective postgraduate research.

HL 60-69 Honours – second class lower division

The lower second class range of 60-69% is equivalent to a low distinction (70-74%) at undergraduate level. Work in this range will be competent, but will fall significantly short in relation to one or more of the assessment criteria. Students producing work at this level could not be considered for a postgraduate scholarship.

HT 50-59 Honours – third class

These projects will provide evidence of a serious attempt at honours work, but will have major inadequacies in relation to the assessment criteria. This work is considered to be completed at a minimally appropriate level for honours.

HN 0-49 Honours failure

There can be a variety of fundamental problems behind a fail assessment. Honours projects may fail if they demonstrate inadequate research and little critical engagement with relevant scholarship, or they may simply make no attempt to present an argument. The writing may be unintelligible, or the essay may be too short to develop the topic. Work in this range fails to meet the minimum standard appropriate for an honours degree.

Post-graduate Study and Scholarships

Some of you may be considering post-graduate study. Scholarship forms for the University of Tasmania are available on the web and you can access other universities' forms in the same way and/or by contacting their Offices for Research. It is important to start investigating scholarship opportunities early in semester 2 as some forms take quite a lot of time to complete and you will need to organise referees for your applications. Most scholarship applications will need to be in before the end of October.

Information for prospective research higher degree candidates is available from the University's Graduate Research page:

<http://www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/scholarships/index.htm>