



***School of English, Journalism
and European Languages***

Faculty of Arts

**HEJ409/HEJ410
Honours Research Essay A/B**

Semester 2, 2010

Unit Outline

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CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

Contact details

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Unit description

Students are required to complete a long research essay. Topic and supervisor to be nominated by the student in consultation with the School.

Intended learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced skills in research, writing and analysis;
2. Demonstrate skills in research project development and design;
3. Contribute to knowledge or understanding in journalism, media and communications, as appropriate to Honours level.

Generic graduate attributes

The University has defined a set of generic graduate attributes (GGAs) that can be expected of all graduates (see <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/index.htm>). By undertaking this unit you should make progress in attaining the following attributes:

Knowledge: *through researching a topic in depth, and applying relevant theoretical and methodological frameworks*

Communication skills: *through the development of advanced writing skills*

Problem-solving skills: *through the development and completion of an independent research project*

Global perspective: *through knowledge of a range of theories, methods, texts and practices in journalism, media and communications*

Social responsibility: *through the development of ethical and socially responsible research practice*

Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

The University of Tasmania regularly requests feedback from students through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning (SETL) process. Changes to units stemming from student responses to texts and teaching strategies are regularly implemented in the School of English, Journalism and European Languages.

Details of teaching arrangements

The Honours Research Essay is a supervised research project, involving regular meetings with your supervisor during semester time.

Full-time students who commenced Honours study in Semester 1, 2010 will undertake HEJ409 and HEJ410 concurrently in Semester 2, 2010. Students will meet fortnightly with their supervisor in weeks 14-26.

Full-time students who commenced Honours study in Semester 2, 2010 will undertake HEJ409 in Semester 2, 2010 and HEJ410 in Semester 2, 2011. Students will generally meet with their supervisor monthly, over the course of Semester 2, 2010 and Semester 1 2011.

Part-time students will have varying enrolments, depending on the semester in which study was commenced. Part-time students will generally meet with their supervisors monthly while undertaking HEJ409 and HEJ410.

Prior to commencing HEJ409/HEJ410, all students should email the Honours coordinator with a brief proposal, outlining the proposed topic of their Honours Research Essay. JMC staff will then meet to discuss supervision arrangements. 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 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 fortnightly meetings are the norm over the course of a full-time project. Ask your supervisor about his or her preferred mode of submission of material (i.e. 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 Essay 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 project.

Staying in Contact

It is very important for us to keep in contact with you during the honours year, but this is sometimes difficult. The most effective way for us to keep in touch 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.

Specific attendance/performance requirements

The Honours Research Essay 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 by the due date.

Honours 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 2010, should be either HEJ400 (full-time) or HEJ401 (part-time). You need to enrol in the relevant code for every semester you are enrolled in Honours.

For full-time students: You must enrol in the umbrella code HEJ400 and the compulsory units HEJ412 Theory and Methods in Journalism, Media and Communications, HEJ409 Honours Research Essay A and HEJ410 Honours Research Essay B. (Please note that although the Research Essay has two codes, it is a single essay). Full-time students must also enrol in another 25% of elective coursework units chosen from either HEJ413 Current Issues in Journalism, Media and Communications or HEJ414 Reading in Journalism, Media and Communications.

For part-time students: You must enrol in the umbrella code HEJ401 and you will normally complete Honours over four semesters. You are advised to take HEJ412 Theory and Methods in Journalism, Media and Communications plus 25% of elective units in Year One, then HEJ409 and HEJ410 in Year Two. Other course structures may be arranged through consultation with the Honours coordinator.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

Assessment task	Date due	Percent weighting	Links to Intended Learning Outcomes
Honours Research Essay	For full-time students who commenced in Semester 1, 2010: 4.30pm, Friday 22 October 2010 For full-time students who commenced in Semester 2, 2010: 4.30pm, Friday 3 June 2011	100%	1, 2, 3

Assessment details

Honours Research Essay

Task length 12,500 words

Links to unit's intended learning outcomes 1, 2, 3

Assessment criteria The JMC Honours research essay will be assessed according to the following criteria:

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
- Ability to identify and apply relevant media research methodology

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

Date due For full-time students who commenced in Semester 1 2010:
4.30pm, Friday 22 October

For full-time students who commenced in Semester 2, 2010:
4.30pm, Friday 3 June 2011

Submission of assignments

You must submit three copies of the research project, presented according to current Harvard 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 Hobart by 4.30 pm on the due date. The word length is **12,500** words (*excluding* your Reference List, but *including* all other material). You should meet this requirement but not exceed it by more than 500-1000 words.

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office and the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Assignment cover sheets can be downloaded from
http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm

Penalties

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and, therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

Requests for extensions

The Honours Research Essay 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.

How your final result is determined

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- First Class (HF)—80-100%

These projects will be highly accomplished in all areas and will be characterised 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.

- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%

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.

- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%

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.

- Third Class (HT)—50-59%

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.

- Fail (HN)—0-49%

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.

All marks are subject to moderation.

Review of results and appeals

Please refer to the **Student Resources** page on the School's website for information that addresses how to apply for a review of assessment, make an appeal or seek clarification regarding any assessment practices in this unit:

http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm

Academic referencing

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity.

Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence.

The English, French and German disciplines use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

For general information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles:

<http://utas.libguides.com/referencing>

Please read the following statements on academic misconduct and plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, allowing another student to copy work for an assignment or an examination and any other conduct by which a student:

- a) seeks to gain, for themselves or for any other person, any academic advantage or advancement to which they or that other person are not entitled; or
- b) improperly disadvantages any other student.

Students engaging in any form of academic misconduct may be dealt with under the Ordinance of Student Discipline, and this can include imposition of penalties that range from a deduction/cancellation of marks to exclusion from a unit or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work. If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at: <http://www.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

For further information on this statement and general referencing guidelines, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/> or follow the link under 'Policy, Procedures and Feedback' on the **Current Students** homepage.

Further information and assistance

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life-planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including Teaching & Learning, Student Services, International Services. Please refer to the **Current Students** homepage at: <http://www.utas.edu.au/students/>

Should you require assistance in accessing the Library visit their website for more information at <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>

You are also welcome to contact the School of English, Journalism and European Languages with any enquiries:

Room 557, Humanities Building
Sandy Bay campus, Hobart
Tel: (03) 6226 2347
Fax: (03) 6226 7631
Email: SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel>

Honours Room

Honours students have access to a shared Honours room. You will need to ask at the general SEJEL office for a key and pay a small deposit which will be refunded in full when the key is returned.

Student Representative

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. In recognition of this you will be given some help towards photocopying costs. It is a good idea to give priority to inter-library loan photocopying, as these resources cannot be requested twice. Please see the SEJEL office for a photocopying card.

Thesis Collection

Copies of Honours research projects completed by previous students within the School are held in the library.