

GUIDELINES FOR THE ENGLISH HONOURS ESSAY

1. In the final semester of the English Honours program, each student will prepare a senior honours essay which is 45-50 pages long (approximately 10,000 words) according to the following guidelines:
2. Honours students should submit a topic proposal, in the form of a brief abstract of 150-200 words, to the Chair of the English Department no later than the end of the second full week of classes of the final semester. This topic will probably be chosen in consultation with a faculty member in the English Department. The topic must be approved by both the supervisor and a second reader.
3. Students may choose their own supervisor from among the full-time English Department faculty, though of course their choice of topic must be in an area of that person's interest and expertise.
4. The essay should demonstrate an understanding of literary analysis as well as knowledge of major critical material in the topic area.
5. Students should meet with their supervisors at regular intervals, probably at least every two or three weeks.
6. Two copies of the final text of the essay shall be submitted to the Chair two full weeks prior to the end of classes (unless other arrangements have been made with both readers), thus giving time for the supervisor and the second reader to evaluate the essay prior to the beginning of final examinations. The final grade will be determined by consensus of the two readers.
7. The essay must be presented in accordance with the rules for documentation set out in the most recent edition of the MLA Handbook.
8. After final grading, the essay will be returned to the student who will then deliver two clean texts of the essay to the Chair within one month.