

# Honors Program

# UCSB Department of English

The Honors Program in English provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research. Successful performance in the Program leads to graduation “With Distinction in the Major.” *This program is especially recommended for students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in literary studies.*

Students should apply to the program in the fall of their junior year. Majors who have completed the sophomore year with a minimum GPA of 3.5 (overall and in the major) may apply for admission to the Honors Program. The application includes:

- 1) An application form available from the Department Office.
- 2) A letter (or email) of endorsement from a faculty member who is familiar with your work.
- 3) A statement of purpose indicating why you are applying for the Honors Program and the kind of research topic you might want to pursue in the Honors Thesis (1-2 pages).
- 4) A writing sample (no more than ten pages); it is recommended that you submit work originally written for an English course.

\* If you cannot complete some component of the Honors Program according to the normal schedule (English 198 in winter and spring of the junior year, English 196 in the fall of the senior year), please also include a brief document that explains why you cannot follow the normal schedule and indicates the timeframe in which you propose to complete the Honors Program.

Applications for the Program must be submitted by October 31 in the fall of 2009. The undergraduate staff advisor will notify applicants of their acceptance after the Undergraduate Committee has reviewed their applications. The review process should take no more than two weeks.

The English Honors Program comprises two related courses (4 credits each), taken in three consecutive quarters from junior to senior year:

**1. Honors Seminar (English 198A-B).** The Honors Seminar is a two-term course, which will meet every other week in the winter and spring quarters of a given academic year. The first quarter of the Honors Seminar exposes undergraduates to the standards and best practices of research-level literary scholarship while also preparing the ground for the students’ intended research topics. The second quarter then centers on workshop presentations and discussions focused on students’ proposed senior thesis topics. The course is worth 2 units per quarter and four units total.

**2. Honors English / Senior Thesis (English 196).** The Senior Thesis is a one-term course, which students will normally take in the fall quarter of their senior year. Students taking this course will write a substantial, sustained piece of critical writing of at least 35 pages under the mentorship of a faculty member. The senior theses are due no later than the last day of classes in the quarter in which English 196 is taken. The English Department encourages projects that are creatively envisioned or that incorporate creative elements. Even projects oriented toward creative writing, however, must include a research component. This project is to be typed in a form declared suitable by the department, and will be retained in the department archives. A sample format for the thesis is available in the English Department. English 196 is worth four units.

Each of these courses may be used to satisfy an upper-division English elective, but they may not be used to satisfy the English 197 upper division seminar requirement.

Successful completion of the Honors project carries the designation of “Distinction in the Major” if a student: 1) attains a GPA of 3.5 overall in the English Honors Program and 2) maintains a GPA of 3.5 in English (in the overall major and the upper division). For exceptional work the Undergraduate Committee may recommend additional department recognition of “Special Distinction.”

UCSB DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO  
THE DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Perm. number: \_\_\_\_\_

Class standing (Jr., Sr.) \_\_\_\_\_ When do you expect to graduate (quarter, year)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

To be filled out by the Undergraduate Adviser:

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

The application for the English Honors Program must include the following items:

- A statement of purpose indicating why you are applying for the Honors Program and the kind of research topic you might want to pursue in the Honors Thesis (1-2 pages)
- A writing sample (no more than ten pages); it is recommended that you submit work originally written for an English course
- A letter of endorsement from a faculty member familiar with your work. (This can come in the form of an email).
- If you cannot complete some component of the Honors Program according to the normal schedule (English 198 in winter and spring of the junior year, English 196 in the fall of the senior year), please also include a brief document that explains why you cannot follow the normal schedule and indicates the timeframe in which you propose to complete the Honors Program.

The application is considered complete when the Undergraduate Staff Advisor has received these items. The Undergraduate Committee will review the application and will determine the student's admission to the English Honors Program.

Faculty Endorser: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_