

# UCSB Department of English Honors Program

## “Seminar Track” Application

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 Honors Program Seminar Track in the Winter quarter 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 Seminar Track. The application includes:

- 1) A completed application form (can be electronic copy or hard copy).
- 2) 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).
- 3) A writing sample (no more than ten pages) is recommended. You should submit work originally written for an English course.

\* If you cannot complete some component of the Honors Program Seminar Track according to the standard schedule (English 198H in Spring of junior year, English 196 in the Fall of 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 Seminar Track. (Also, see the [Department website for information](#) on the individual track, which offers greater flexibility.)

Applications for the Program must be submitted either as a hard copy to 3432-B South Hall or in one single PDF to the [English Undergrad Advisor](#).

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

**1. Honors Seminar (English 198H).** The Honors Seminar is a one-term course that exposes students to the standards and best practices of research-level literary scholarship while also preparing the ground for the students’ intended research topics. The course offers theoretical discussions concerning the nature of our discipline and its methods, goals, and assumptions; it attends to some of the current trends in the discipline and our department through a focus on our centers and specializations; and it offers guidance and instruction with regard to research and research methods.

**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. Honors projects are due no later than the last day of classes in the quarter you enroll in English 196.

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 8.0 units of coursework and the Senior Honors Thesis 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  
“SEMINAR TRACK”

APPLICATION DUE:  
Monday, January 30, 2023  
SOUTH HALL 3432-B

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 Advisor:

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.
- If you cannot complete some component of the Honors Program according to the normal schedule (English 198H in 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.

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