

April 2006

THE HONOURS THESIS IN CLASSICS

DESCRIPTION OF THESIS:

The traditional thesis is an essay (normally no longer than 75 pages double-spaced plus scholarly apparatus) which provides the student with the opportunity to contribute to classical scholarship through original research.

When picking a topic, it is important that the student locate sufficient suitable primary sources to work with, and that these be readily available without necessitating expensive or extended travel. It is also important for students to consult with faculty on the suitability of their proposed topic and the availability of a suitable supervisor and reader.

The thesis should normally be divided into three chapters and a brief conclusion. The first chapter of the thesis formally introduces the topic and describes its importance. It explores the existing scholarship on the subject and places the research in the context of what other scholars have discovered. Subsequent chapters contribute to classical scholarship and involve analysis and interpretation of the primary sources. A short Conclusion terminates the thesis.

THESIS PROCESS:

1. In March of their third year, prospective Honours students should submit a short thesis proposal to the department Chair outlining the topic, stating questions to be addressed, and identifying the primary sources to be used.
2. Once the proposals are received, they will be circulated to all faculty members in the Classics unit and then reviewed at a faculty meeting. Proposals will be matched up with faculty members willing to supervise them or act as second readers. Prospective honours students will be notified of these results in writing by the Chair.
 - Students are strongly advised to work on their thesis over the summer, given the challenging timetable for submitting drafts.
3. The suggested timetable for submitting work is as follows:

By end of second full week of classes:

Thesis Supervisor, Second Reader and Student should meet to review progress made over the summer and to set dates for submission of chapters to each reader.

- At this meeting, Student will provide both readers with an up-dated thesis proposal (which might serve as the basis of the thesis Introduction), thesis statement and bibliography of primary and secondary sources.
- This proposal should be subjected to a serious review with an eye to the suitability of the topic and the student's ability to complete it successfully.

End of October to the middle of November:

Draft of one chapter should be submitted at the end of October, reviewed by both readers, and a revised draft prepared by the middle of November..

Last study day of the Fall session to the end of the December Break:

First draft of a second chapter should be submitted on the last study day of the Fall session, reviewed by both readers and returned to Student by the end of the exam period so that revisions can be done over the Break.

December: Mid-term grade to be submitted by Supervisor in consultation with Second Reader.

- If in the estimation of the readers and the Chair satisfactory progress has not been maintained, the Student may withdraw from the honours program. Such a Student will be given the option of submitting a 25-35 page paper on his or her topic for 3hrs credit as CLAS 3693 Special Topics. Otherwise they can choose to overload the full 6hrs to complete their Major.

By end of first full week of classes in January:

Revised draft of a second chapter should be submitted to Supervisor.

One week before Study Break until the beginning of Study Break:

Draft of third chapter should be submitted one week before the start of Study Break, reviewed by both readers in time before the Break.

By the end of Study Break:

Revised draft of third chapter and a draft Conclusion should be submitted by the end of the Break.

By first Monday in March

Draft Conclusion should have been reviewed by both readers and a revised draft prepared.

By two weeks before thesis submission deadline set by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies

Entire thesis should have been reviewed by both readers, and a revised draft submitted to the Chair complete with presentation pages, figures, appendices etc. The thesis will be checked by the Chair and/or a specially constituted committee to assist in the task of making sure it conforms to university guidelines. Students will be required to make any necessary revisions. Supervisors will submit their grades to the Chair at this time.

- If a thesis is not good enough to submit to the University Honours Committee, then 6hrs credit can be given for CLAS 3693 to complete their Major.

By 12.00 noon, thesis submission deadline set by the ORGS

All University Honours committee forms must be completed and signed and a final draft of the full thesis must be submitted to the University Honours Committee by the Student. This is a non-negotiable deadline and it is the Student's responsibility to make sure it is adhered to.

TBA: Oral Defence

At a convenient time, students will present a 10-15 minute summary of their thesis to the Department and fellow students, and be prepared to answer questions from the audience.

GRADE

The grade will be assigned by mutual agreement of both readers. In the case of disagreement, the Supervisor will be responsible for assigning the grade in consultation with the Chair.

