

This booklet will answer some frequently asked questions about the honours program; if you have any other questions or just want to talk about the program, please speak to the acting honours coordinator, Dr. Shannon Murray (566-0404, [smurray@upei.ca](mailto:smurray@upei.ca))

Please note: This brochure is meant as a general guide. In places where it is in disagreement with the University's calendar, the calendar has precedence.

### 1. What is an Honours degree in English?

- It offers a thorough grounding in English literary and language studies;
- It requires a high grade average;
- It allows the student to develop an area of independent study through the Honours essay.

### 2. Why pursue an Honours degree in English?

There are many reasons, the most important of which is your love of literature and words and your desire to know as much as possible about the range and variety of writing in English;

- You also enjoy the challenge of independent work;
- You want employers to see you that you do more than is necessary, do better than is necessary, and work well on your own.
- You may be thinking of graduate studies or a professional degree.

### 3. What is the difference between an English Major and English Honours?

- Each allows a student to explore major periods, but the Honours requires greater coverage: a separate American and Canadian course, for example.
- The course in literary theory is a requirement.
- The Honours demands consistently higher grades.
- The Honours degree requires 42 courses rather than the 40 for the Major.
- The Honours degree gives you the Honours essay, a chance to develop an area of interest while working closely with one professor.

### 4. What do I need before I apply?

- English 121, 122, 204 and 296:
- An average of at least 75% in English courses at the time of application; normally, students will need to be receiving grades of 80% or more on their English essays to be accepted. Admission to the program will be competitive, and because of the demand for the program will likely exceed the resources available at the department, not all applicants who meet the formal admission requirements will be accepted in the Honours Program.

5. How do I apply?

- Meet with the Honours Coordinator.
- Fill out an application form, available through the English Department Administrative Assistant or the Honours coordinator, and append a copy of your degree audit.
- The English Department then meets and votes on your application based on your transcript and on the availability of space in the program.

6. Are there deadlines?

Yes. While there can be exceptions to this calendar of deadlines, normally the student is expected to do the following:

End of second year or beginning of third year	Apply to Honours Programme.
End of third year	Establish a supervisor and submit his/her name to the honours coordinator.
Fall of fourth year	Register in English 496. Meet with supervisor to design the guide/syllabus/contract for this course. In consultation with supervisor, choose departmental reader and external reader for the honours essay. Submit names to honours coordinator.
September - October of fourth year	Submit thesis proposal and working bibliography to the honours coordinator to be approved by the department.
Winter of fourth year	Register in English 497. Begin writing Honours Essay according to schedule set in consultation with supervisor.
End of classes, winter of fourth year	Completed draft of honours essay should go to examining committee.
April of fourth year	Supervisor will schedule the discussion of the essay with the student and the committee.

## 7. What English courses do I need?

An Honours English student must complete 126 semester hours of credit, including the prerequisite courses and the following minimal requirements in English:

Medieval Literature . . . . .	3 hours
Shakespeare and one other Renaissance course. . . . .	6 hours
Eighteenth-Century Literature . . . . .	3 hours
Nineteenth-Century British Literature . . . . .	3 hours
Modern and Contemporary Literature . . . . .	6 hours
Canadian Literature . . . . .	3 hours
American Literature . . . . .	3 hours
English Language and Linguistics . . . . .	3 hours
Literary Theory . . . . .	3 hours
Two 400 level Courses . . . . .	6 hours
English 496 . . . . .	3 hours
English 497 . . . . .	3 hours
Three additional English courses, at least one of which must be on British Literature before 1900 . . . . .	9 hours

## 8. What is the Honours Tutorial?

- This is an intensive tutorial course in the area of the student's Honours Graduating Essay, supervised by the student's Honours Advisor. Each Honours Tutorial will be developed by the student and advisor and approved by the department as a whole. As part of this course, students will be required to produce a substantive proposal for their Honours Graduating Essay. Other requirements

may include annotated bibliographies, preliminary draft work, reading journals, essays. This course is a prerequisite for English 497.

## 9. What is the Honours Essay?

- Each student is required to write an essay of 8,000 to 10,000 words on a subject selected by the student and approved by the English Department. The essay will be written under the supervision of a member of the English Department and assessed, after a discussion with the student, by a three-member committee consisting of the supervisor, a second reader from the English Department, and an outside examiner, usually from another academic department at the University. Students must complete English 496 before beginning 497.

## 10. How do I choose a topic and a supervisor?

- When you have an idea about your subject, find out who in the English Department can help you best. Below is a list of full-time department members and their areas of interest:

**Greg Doran**

Canadian Literature, Dramatic Literature, Theatrical Performance and Production, the Graphic Novel and Textual Scholarship.

### **Anne Furlong**

Linguistics and literature, specifically pragmatics and stylistics; Victorian literature, particularly women's writing and material culture; literary theory, specifically with regard to the canon – formation and evaluation; interpretive strategies and literature; pedagogical applications of pragmatics.

### **Catherine Innes-Parker**

My current research focuses on women's literacy in the middle ages. I study medieval attitudes towards women's reading in texts written by, for, and about women, and patterns of manuscript ownership to determine what women actually read.

### **Richard Lemm**

Canadian poetry and fiction; the literature of Atlantic Canada; memoir and autobiography; creative writing; post-colonial literatures in English; Africa, the Caribbean, India, Australia, New Zealand; politics and literature; sports novels and poems.

### **Geoffrey Lindsay**

Contemporary American Poetry, Robert Lowell, Richard Howard, Anthony Hecht.

### **Brent MacLaine**

20th-century literature; poetry; fiction; photo-fiction; literatures of small Islands; literature of Atlantic Canada.

### **John McIntyre**

Twentieth-century literature; Anglo-American modernism; cultural studies; theories of place; commemoration and public memory.

### **Jane Magrath**

18th Century Literature, Women's Literature - medical texts and correspondence of the female body, and Elizabeth Montagu (1720-1800).

### **Shannon Murray**

Renaissance literature; Shakespeare, John Bunyan, John Milton; children's literature, especially Early Modern English children's literature; Janosz Korczak, learning communities, active learning, the senior-year experience.

### **Wendy Shilton**

19th-Century American Literature, Composition and Literacy/Pedagogy, and Writing Across the Curriculum.

### **Esther Wohlgenut**

19th-century British Literature, cosmopolitanism, nationalism, 19th-century secret societies, conspiracy narrative, romantic historiography.

Once you have found a willing supervisory and a topic, you will submit a proposal and working bibliography to the English Department for approval.

10. What happens after the essay proposal is accepted?

- You will have registered in English 496 in September of the year you will write the thesis; in the winter, you'll register in 497.
- The arrangements for deadlines and supervision are worked out between the student and the supervisor, but you will probably meet weekly for an hour or so.

11. What else do I need for the degree?

- 42 courses instead of 40, including the honours essay.
- An average of 75% in all required English courses, and 70% overall.

12. What happens after the Honours Essay has been completed?

Three things:

- When the essay is in its final form, it goes to the supervisor and two other readers, one of whom is from another department. The four of you meet for a discussion of the final paper, after which the three committee members agree on a grade. The final grade for the Honours essay comes from the essay itself (80%). The supervisor awards the grades for progress.

- In a creative project, students normally present some of their work and answer questions in a public reading.

- After the essay or creative project has been completed, the student is responsible for binding two copies of the work, one for the English Department and one for the University Library.

13. Can I graduate with a Major in English and go back to get Honours afterwards?

- Yes. Once you complete all the Honours requirements, you would receive a conversion certificate, and your university transcript will record you as a graduate in the Honours programme.
- You will need to apply again as a student at UPEI.

14. Where can I go for more information?

- Talk to the Acting Honours Coordinator, Dr. Shannon Murray ([smurray@upei.ca](mailto:smurray@upei.ca), English Department, Main 220; phone 566-0404).

15. Once I've been accepted, how should I keep track of my programme?

- You are responsible to ensure that the requirements for your programme are completed by the time you want to graduate. You are encouraged to double check that you're on the right track by meeting the honours coordinator once a year, and by running a degree audit (in HonEng) through the UPEI Web Page.

### Your Honours Course Checklist

**Prerequisites:** Before you apply to the Honours programme, you need to have completed

- English 121
- English 122
- English 204
- English 296

**Honours requirements:** Before you graduate, you need to have completed

- A Medieval Course
- A Shakespeare Course
- A Renaissance Course other than Shakespeare

- An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Course
- A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Course
- Two 20<sup>th</sup> Century Courses
- A Canadian Course
- An American Course
- An English Language and Linguistics Course
- Two 400 level Courses
- A Literary Theory Course
- Honours Tutorial (496)
- Honours Graduating Essay (497)
- Three additional English courses, at least one of which must be on British Literature before 1900