

ENGLISH STUDIES HONOURS SEMINARS

At Nipissing University

What is an Honours Seminar?

The Seminar is a “capstone” experience for students in their fourth year of the Honours Specialization in English Studies. Seminars are typically focused on an aspect of the professor’s research interests and thus give students an opportunity to delve into the heart of academic specialization. However, students should note that once it has been conceived and planned, the seminar is not about the professor but about the students in the class. These courses have no lectures, and the day-to-day course content is built entirely through directed discussion and presentations. Students should come prepared to develop their own topics and generate their own ideas using the skills they have acquired over their degree. In order to facilitate this active dialogue, the classes are small, typically capped at 15.

What kinds of assignments will I have to do?

Every seminar involves a major oral presentation (this often includes not only a formal presentation but leading the entire class discussion for the day) and a large independent research essay. As well, most have up to 25% of the total mark designated for day-to-day class participation. Other assignments may vary according to the professor.

Are they hard?

Yes, but most students report seminars to be one of the most rewarding classroom experiences of their university careers.

How does registration for seminars work?

The same as any other course though please note that they are restricted to students in the fourth year of the Honours Specialization. Every student is guaranteed the six-credits of seminars necessary to fulfill their degree requirements; however, access to individual courses is limited by the course capacity (strictly maintained to ensure the academic integrity of the course). Enrolment in particular topics or time-slots is done on a first-come, first-serve basis.

What kinds of seminar topics could I expect?

Below are some topics from past years. Planning for 2017-18 registration is still in flux, so keep your eye on the English Studies website for the specific descriptions of the courses available for registration. Also consider the option of doing an independent study project (“ENGL 4695

Honours Essay” and “ENGL 4795 Creative and Critical Writing Honours Essay”). Some restrictions apply, so see the information below for more details.

Honours Seminar Topics from the Archives

The Canadian Historical Novel

The Victorian Fantastic

The Culture of War and Contemporary American Literature

Early Modern Cross-Dressing

The Lord of the Rings

Literature and Existentialism

The Art of Sacrifice

Honours Essay: Independent/Directed Study Projects

There are two options for the highly motivated student who might want to pursue her or his own subject of honours level research, with the guidance of a faculty member in English. ENGL 4695 Honours Essay is a literary research project: a supervised critical essay of 9,000 to 12,000 words. ENGL 4795 Creative and Critical Writing Honours Essay consists of two parts: a creative writing project and a critical essay. Both require standing at fourth year in the Honours program and a 77% discipline average. Pre-approval is required before a student is able to register. The applicant must identify which option she or he would prefer and locate a faculty member who would be willing to supervise the project. The student should then work with the professor to produce a short proposal for the project to be approved by the English Department. The deadline for proposals to the department is **March 10, 2017**. *Please note, that though these courses are 6 credits, the student will still be required to complete 3 credits of Honours Seminars.*

NOTE ON CHANGING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The English Studies Department has made some changes to the requirements for the Honours Specialization in English. These take effect for students who entered the program in September 2016. The old requirements remain in effect for any English student who began their degree program in September 2015 or earlier; however, in some cases students may decide to opt in to the new system. For your information, both the new and old requirements are listed below.

“NEW” HONOURS SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 120 credits including 60 credits in the Honours Specialization as follows:

ENGL 1000-level	3 credits
ENGL 2006 British Literature Before 1800	3 credits
ENGL Literary History I	9 credits
ENGL Literary History II	9 credits
ENGL courses	30 credits
ENGL 4000-level	6 credits

Breadth requirements:

ACAD 1601	
Social Science and/or Professional Studies	6 credits
Science	6 credits

Note:

Students are limited to a maximum of 6 credits of English Studies Topics courses at the 1000 level.

An average of at least 70% in the subject is required for enrolment in 4000 level courses.

A maximum of 30 credits at the 2000 level may be applied to the Honours Specialization.

A maximum of 6 credits of cross-listed courses may count toward an English Studies Honours Specialization.

Honours Seminars and ENGL 4695 Honours Essay cannot be counted towards the Literary History requirements.

“OLD” HONOURS SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete 120 credits including 60 credits in the Honours Specialization as follows:

ENGL 1000-level	3 credits
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Six credits from the following

ENGL 2006 British Literature Before 1800

ENGL 2007 British Literature After 1800

ENGL 2256 Double Agents: Canadian Literature before 1914

ENGL 2257 Hyphenated-Canadians: Canadian Literature after 1914

ENGL 2266 Adventurers and Outlaws, or Pioneers of the Frontier: Early American Literature

ENGL 2267 “Make It New”: Contemporary American Literature

ENGL Group 1	21 credits
ENGL Group 2	18 credits
ENGL Group 1, 2 and/or 3	6 credits
ENGL 4000 level	6 credits

(Breadth requirements and notes remain the same)