Applications to this year’s English Department Critical Honors Program are due November 12, 2015. It’s time to start thinking about whether the Honors Program might be for you.

Why should you apply to the English Department Critical Honors Program?

If you’re planning to go to graduate or professional school, participating in the honors seminar during winter quarter and writing a thesis during the spring provide invaluable preparation. But the honors seminar also offers more than that. Whatever your plans are, the seminar can provide a capstone for your undergraduate career.

In the honors seminar, you can:

- Make the most of being at a research university, by learning how faculty produce new knowledge and how you can do so yourself;
- Think outside the curricular and disciplinary boxes, while getting course credit for doing so:
- Get to know faculty and work closely with them;
- Build community with other majors;
- Take ownership of an intellectual project, identifying and pursuing your own interests actively and independently;
- Develop better writing, research, and oral presentation skills, as well as time management, organizational, and social skills.

Last year, a participant in the Honors Program concluded: “This seminar has been the highlight of my college career. It was an amazing experience and I am so glad that I was able to be part of it.”

What is this amazing experience and how can you be part of it?

The Honors Program (Critical) in the English Department consists of a two-course sequence: English 194H, Special Study for Honors (4 units); and English 195H, Honors Thesis (4 units).

Students admitted to the Honors Program are required to take English 194H in winter quarter of their senior year, and English 195H in the spring quarter. Students completing the Honors Program will receive appropriate notation on their transcript.
In the winter quarter, English 194H is taught by the member of the English Department faculty who is coordinating the Critical Program. This year, Professor Margaret Ferguson will lead the seminar. English 194H helps students sharpen their critical reading, research, oral presentation, and writing skills and asks them to engage in conversation and collaboration with one another. The class is **limited to fifteen members** so that students can work closely with the professor and engage actively in discussion. In addition to completing short reading, research, and writing assignments, each student will be required to sharpen the focus of his or her Honors Thesis during the quarter, to produce a very rough draft of the thesis, and to designate an individual faculty advisor who will serve as a mentor during the thesis writing process.

The Honors Thesis itself is a scholarly essay that reflects each student’s particular literary interests. The completed thesis is normally 25-30 pages in length. As a course, English 195H has no class meetings during the spring quarter; instead each student is required to schedule regular meetings with his or her faculty advisor in spring quarter and to work with the advisor in devising and following a schedule for independent research and writing. Students receive four units of credit for working on their thesis projects under the direction of the faculty advisor.

**Eligibility:** English 194H and English 195H are open to senior English majors with a 3.50 GPA overall as well as a GPA of 3.50 in the major*. Advanced-standing juniors who expect to graduate in mid-year may also apply for admission. In addition to the GPA requirement, applicants are expected to have completed ENL 110A or 110B and at least one Advanced Studies course, preferably a seminar (see Advanced Study section under “Major Requirements” for a complete listing). As part of their application, students must submit a sample of their writing as well as a short proposal describing what they propose to do in their thesis project.

More information is available from the Undergraduate Counselor, Ms. Lynda Jones, 177 Voorhies Hall (lmjones@ucdavis.edu) or Professor Margaret Ferguson, 265 Voorhies Hall (mwferguson@ucdavis.edu).

*Graduation with “honors” requires that a student meet the appropriate grade point requirement described in the General Catalog for all UC courses completed. Students who meet the grade point requirement for graduation with honors, and who complete a Departmental Honors Program, may be recommended by their departments for graduation with high honors or highest honors on the basis of an evaluation of their academic achievements in the major and in the honors project in particular.
Honors Program in English (Critical)
Application Procedures

Required Items:

1) A critical writing sample that represents the student’s best work;

2) A 250-word statement designating an area of interest for the thesis. This statement should mention author(s), text(s), historical period(s), a central question and/or possible themes and topics. The applicant is encouraged to consult a faculty member for assistance in developing a proposal, and may ask the faculty member to consider advising the thesis. If you have spoken to a faculty member, please provide this information. While you are not required to have a thesis advisor in place at the time you apply to the program, you will need to identify one by the beginning of Winter quarter.

3) The attached form.

Lynda Jones has examples of successful proposals from previous years in 177 Voorhies.

All materials must be submitted to the Undergraduate Counselor, Lynda Jones, by November 12, 2015. You may email them to her as an email attachment: lmjones@ucdavis.edu, HOWEVER, it is your responsibility to make sure that you receive an email response from Lynda confirming that she received the materials. If an email response is not received from Lynda, please follow up with her.
Honors Program in English Application

Name _________________________________________________________________

ID# ________________________________________________________________

Expected graduation date ______________________

Email address _________________________________________________________

Have you met the eligibility requirements to apply to the Honors Program? _______
  • Senior or advanced standing Junior English major
  • 3.50 or above overall GPA
  • 3.50 or above major GPA
  • Completion of ENL 110A or 110B
  • Completion of at least one Advanced Studies course

____________________________________
Signature of Applicant