The Fourth Year of Study: Honours

INFORMATION GUIDE
# The Fourth Year of Study: Honours

## INFORMATION GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contacts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Honours?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why do a fourth year of study?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint and Cognate Honours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolment Units and codes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Program Structure</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Professional Practice 1 and 2.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropological Epistemology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Transformations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Writing Seminar</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Thesis</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After enrolment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement on academic conduct</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter of Student Rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervision Expectations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honours Results</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal and Revision to Honours Program</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful websites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support at UWA for honours students</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contacts

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School of Social Sciences office

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What is Honours?

The award of Honours at UWA results only from successful completion of a degree or, in rare cases, a diploma program that includes a distinctive dissertation or portfolio based component. This component trains and assesses students’ abilities to contribute to the future development of their disciplines through research that extends existing knowledge and/or through the original and creative application of knowledge in ways likely to impact upon future thinking in their fields of study.
(Source: http://www.uwa.edu.au/prospective/definitions)

The Anthropology and Sociology Discipline offers an Honours program with emphases in both Social Anthropology and Sociology.

Why do a fourth year of study?

Students enroll in a fourth year of study for a number of reasons:

- A desire to continue study through interest, or to broaden and deepen their knowledge;
- Is an introduction to postgraduate study including Masters and PhD study. A First Class Honours degree is a way to help secure a postgraduate scholarship to do further study;
- A desire to further skills and knowledge in preparation for future employment.

Admission: Faculty of Arts:

- Completion of a pass degree;
- Half of the pass degree points (usually 72 points) at 65 per cent and above;
- ANTH1001 Being Human: Culture, Identity and Society and ANTH1002 Global Change, Local Responses or equivalent; any two second-year semester units in anthropology and sociology and any four third-year units in anthropology and sociology;
- The approval of both the Discipline group Honour’s Coordinator and the Faculty;
- Part-time and mid-year enrolments are permitted.
**Admission: Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences:**

- Completion of a pass degree;
- A minimum of 65 per cent in the third-year major is necessary;
- Major sequence as for Arts;
- Part-time enrolments may be permitted in certain circumstances.

**Joint and Cognate Honours**

It is possible to take a joint Honours course. The program has to be approved by both of the discipline groups concerned and the Faculty. Students are expected to have completed a major in both areas of study and must take an absolute minimum of 18 points from each of the two disciplines to qualify for joint Honours (some disciplines may require more). Students wishing to undertake a smaller amount of study in a second discipline during their Honours year may be eligible for a cognate Honours program. Students who do not meet the standard requirements may still apply for admission to Honours, but a special case needs to be made.

**Enrolment**

Students who wish to apply for Honours should approach the Honours coordinator(s) of the discipline group(s) concerned shortly before they expect to complete their degree.

Discuss their Honours eligibility and proposed program of study with the Honours coordinator during the enrolment period.

Applications are available online via Student Connect (for current UWA students) and open in October in the year prior to semester 1 and in May for commencement in semester 2. Students who have not completed their degree at UWA should enroll online via the OASys application system found on the UWA website.

Discipline approves or rejects the application and informs the Faculty. Faculty checks eligibility including marks for the current semester’s units.

If students are approved by the Faculty, Student Administration will send an email to their student account (or via the OASys system online application portal for external applications) inviting them to enroll in Honours with instructions on how to accept their offer and enroll online. The Faculty will then send a letter outlining their course pathway as approved by the Discipline Honour’s Coordinator.

**Please Note:**
All dates are dependent on the semester in which students enroll. Check the Student Administration website for dates. The approval of both the discipline group(s) and the Faculty is required for Honours entry. It is Faculty policy to require that students complete all the requirements for the BA pass degree before they can be admitted to Honours.
The Program

Structure

The Honours program consists of a 24-point dissertation (split into two 12-point semester halves) and 24 points worth of coursework seminars (split into four 6 point semester units).

ANTH 4700  B.A. Hons. (Anthropology)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Code</th>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Semester available</th>
<th>Semester Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4140</td>
<td>Honours Dissertation 1</td>
<td>Includes attendance at thesis writing seminars and satisfactory completion of progress markers</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7479)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 4141</td>
<td>Honours Dissertation 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7480)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 4101</td>
<td>Applied &amp; Professional Practice 1</td>
<td>Includes seminars and a practicum</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7481)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4103</td>
<td>Anthropological Epistemology</td>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7483)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 4102</td>
<td>Applied &amp; Professional Practice 2</td>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7482)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 4104</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ANTH 7484)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
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Course Work

A normal full time enrolment requires students take two coursework units per semester. These consist of one theoretical and one practical/methodology class per semester.

Students also participate in a thesis writing seminar that runs throughout the year.
Applied Professional Practice 1 and 2.

Synopsis: These units use desired graduate attributes for an Anthropology / Sociology Honours Program as a starting point to help students develop knowledge and skills relevant to contemporary practice. The following attributes form a focus for discussion and application through seminars and workshops in APP 1 and 2:

- An understanding of ethical, disciplinary and practical implications of anthropological and sociological research;
- Analytic and problem solving abilities relevant to applied anthropological and sociological practice;
- An ability to explain, through effective writing and communications skills, the findings from anthropological and sociological research to both academic and wider audiences;

APP1 Unit coordinator: Dr Katie Glaskin
APP1 Assessment: seminar participation 30%, Essay 35%, Essay 35%

APP2 Unit coordinator: Professor Greg Acciaioli
APP2 Assessment: seminar participation 30%, Research Proposal Application based on one of the three ethnographies read during the semester 70%.

Anthropological Epistemology

Synopsis: Epistemology is the study of the nature and ground of knowledge especially with reference to its limits and validity. Epistemological relativism positions on the incommensurability of cultures and knowledge. These two definitions form the basis of this seminar-based unit which takes as its theme the following three questions: (1) how do we know what we know as anthropologists? (2) why is this important? and (3) what are the challenges of epistemological relativism?

Unit coordinator: Professor Loretta Baldassar
Assessment: seminar participation 30%, essay 70%

Contemporary Issues

Synopsis: This unit is driven by issues that staff are working on. Three staff members take three weeks each and introduce students to a current area of anthropological and/or sociological research and discussion

Unit coordinator: Professor Nicholas Harney
Assessment: seminar participation 30%, essay 70%
Thesis Writing Seminar

Students will be expected to attend thesis writing seminars. These seminars are designed to assist students in writing their theses. While the seminars are not allocated a formal mark, students are expected to participate and performance is assessed on a pass/fail basis. The seminar provides a venue for discussion of each student’s thesis project and the opportunity to receive feedback from fellow students, thesis supervisors and the unit coordinator. Seminar discussion will focus on conceptualisation of topics, thesis structure, relevant literature, timetable and planning.

Assessment includes the submission of the following progress markers:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Progress Marker</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis proposal</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>This short document (approximately 2-3 pages) should discuss what the student seeks to examine in their thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>This document should contain between ten and fifteen references which are relevant to the topic and accompanied by a short paragraph which explains the importance of the reference to the thesis and/or how the student intends to use it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis plan</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>The plan contains a revised title and a refined thesis question and/or statement; the planned structure of the thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Chapter</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Supervisors are expected to negotiate a plan for drafts with their students and comment on the degree to which the student has met deadlines and has produced suitable draft materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>to be negotiated with supervisors</td>
<td></td>
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Attendance

All seminars are scheduled on one day in the week (usually Wednesday).

The thesis writing seminar will be scheduled over the year usually on a fortnightly basis during semester, though this may vary according to other seminars. The two first semester units will be staggered so that the attendance and assessment is spaced throughout the semester.

Students usually meet with their supervisors regularly, when they have a query and to review current work. Times will be arranged between the student and their supervisor.
The Thesis

The fourth year of study allows the comprehensive treatment of a topic of choice in the research, writing and presentation of a thesis. Theses are judged on the student’s ability to state and address a question or proposition, synthesise concepts and data, and demonstrate independence of thought and familiarity with a body of literature. Theses are also judged on the student’s ability to argue cogently and lucidly. We place considerable emphasis on the structuring of an argument, the demonstration of critical thinking and correct presentation.

The thesis should be approximately 15,000 words.

The thesis is developed principally with the student's supervisor. Students will be allocated a supervisor based upon their chosen topic and staff availability. While students are encouraged to select a research topic to suit their own interests, they are also encouraged to draw on the areas of expertise available in the discipline group.

After Enrolment

Students should start thinking about their thesis topic.

Students will receive copies of the first semester courses and a thesis guideline in the week before the commencement of semester.

The thesis guideline is also available on the website and from the Honours Coordinator.

In the first week of semester students must provide a few sentences about their chosen thesis topic so that you can be allocated a supervisor.

Agree on a topic with your supervisor.

Define what you must do throughout the period of your research.

Identify critical points of progress and assessment.

Read the semester timetable and record important events in your diary.

Create your own timetable and study plan to ensure you know what is involved and can complete the degree requirements.

Reassess your plans regularly.

Participation

It is very important to participate as much as possible in your degree to make it a unique and rewarding experience. This means attending seminars, meeting with your supervisor, sharing the workload in group projects and attending social events for the honours' group.

Statement on academic conduct

Principles of ethical scholarship and academic literacy are important skills to develop within your studies at UWA. UWA considers Ethical scholarship as 'the pursuit of scholarly enquiry framed by honesty and integrity' and Academic literacy as the 'capacity
to undertake study and research, and to communicate findings and knowledge, in ways that reflect the disciplinary conventions and scholarly standards required at tertiary level. 


Academic misconduct is defined at UWA as: ‘any activity or practice engaged in by a student that breaches explicit guidelines relating to the production of work for assessment, in a manner that compromises or defeats the purpose of that assessment. Students must not engage in academic misconduct. Any such activity undermines an ethos of ethical scholarship. Principles of ethical scholarship and academic literacy are key in reducing academic misconduct within the University.

Please familiarise yourself with issues of academic misconduct and ways to avoid plagiarism and misconduct. The following sites may be useful:

Faculty policy relating to academic misconduct: 
http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/page/24326

Notice to all students about plagiarism and other academic misconduct: 
http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/plagiarism

UWA Library website information on referencing styles: 
http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/guides/citingsources/

UWA Library’s Infopathways course 
http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/training/infopathways.html

Charter of Student Rights

The Charter of Student Rights promotes the fundamental rights of students gaining their education at the University of Western Australia. It recognises the importance of students and outlines the principles that the University is charged with putting into effect for its students. The charter can be found at: http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/charter

An annotated version of the charter contains references to University policies and guidelines explaining the manner in which the University will enact the charter. It can be found at: www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/charter/annot

Supervision Expectations

Students usually meet with their supervisor once or twice a month. It is the combined responsibility of the supervisor and the student to organise meetings. You are also welcome to consult with other members of staff, although you may not get immediate feedback if you call in unexpectedly.

Supervisors aim to return draft chapters to students within two weeks. Sometimes this is not always possible because of their other teaching and research commitments. Be sure to make sure you make any time restrictions clear to your supervisor.
Equipment

Students are required to use printing and computer services in the University Libraries and Computer Labs; however, photocopying handouts for seminar presentations or practicum related work is provided. Submit your handout for copying to Jennifer no later than the day before it is needed.

Other information

Honours Results

Students will enroll in a separate unit code for each of their honours components; including a separate code for each semester half of the dissertation. A mark will be allocated at the end of each semester for each individual unit enrolment, with the exception of the dissertation 1 unit (first half of the dissertation), which will be graded as AC (Assessment Continuing) as this is a part-unit only.

The results for dissertation 2 and all seminar units taken will be used to calculate the overall honours result in accordance with the formula applied in the relevant discipline group(s) (which will normally involve a proportional weighting of each honours component). Honours results will be classified as follows:

- First Class Honours (H1) 80-100%
- Second Class Honours Division A (2A) 70-79%
- Second Class Honours Division B (2B) 60-69%
- Third Class Honours 50-59%

Results for individual components and the overall honours classification will appear on a student's academic transcript.

The census dates for units of study and last dates to withdraw each semester apply to honours units. Students who fail an honours unit will not be permitted to re-enroll and will be excluded from their Honours course.

Time Limits

Students may apply to be admitted to honours after completing their BA pass degree. The honours course can be taken over two semesters full-time or three to four semesters part-time. Periods of time taken away from the study of the honours course should be applied for via an Approved Leave Application form. If students encounter medical or personal difficulties that hamper their progress it is possible to extend the honours time limit by up to two semesters with special permission from the Faculty on the recommendation of the discipline group(s) concerned. Work commitments rarely justify extension of the honours time limit.
Students who do not need to extend their honours time limit, but wish to request an extension on their dissertation submission date, should discuss this with their discipline group honours coordinator in the first instance. Extensions of longer than two weeks will be reported to the Faculty via a Special Approval form and will require Faculty approval.

**Withdrawal and Revision to Honours Program**

Individual honours programs will be approved by the Faculty when students first enroll in honours. Students wishing to make subsequent changes to their honours program should submit a Change of Enrolment form and a revised honours program signed by their discipline group's honours coordinator to the Faculty for approval.

Students should note that although the dissertation is split into two separate semester-long codes, it is normally treated as a single full-year component of the honours program taken across two consecutive semesters in both part-time and full-time honours programs. Students who withdraw from their dissertation enrolment (eg - by changing from a full-time to part-time honours program) should note that they will require the permission of their discipline group honours coordinator and the Faculty's Academic Student Adviser if they wish to re-enroll to complete the dissertation at a later date. Students are advised to discuss the implications of any proposed revision to their honours program with their discipline group honours coordinator and the Faculty Student Office.

**Useful websites**

- Faculty of Arts Home Page  
  [http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au](http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au)

- Faculty Arts Honours Policy  

- Anthropology and Sociology home page  
  [http://anthropology.arts.uwa.edu.au](http://anthropology.arts.uwa.edu.au)

- Honours information on the Anthropology and Sociology home page  

- Download a list of completed Honours and Masters Preliminary theses  

- Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences home page  
  Honours information on the FLPS home page  

- Student Administration homepage  

- Arts Faculty's Transition Policy  
  [www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/transition](http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/transition)
Principles of ethical scholarship and academic literacy at UWA
http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/page/59146

Faculty policy relating to academic misconduct
http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/page/24326

Notice to all students about plagiarism and other academic misconduct
http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/plagiarism

UWA Library website information on referencing styles
http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/guides/citingsources/

UWA Library’s Info pathways course
http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/training/infopathways.html

Charter of Student Rights
http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/charter

An annotated version of the Charter of Student Rights
www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/charter/annot

Support for Honours Students at UWA

Refer to the STUDY Smarter Workshop Calendar for information on the Honours workshops being offered this semester (page 2).
http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/learning/?a=2253646
http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/learning/studysmarter/on-campus/workshops