The Honours Degree in French

The Honours degree allows outstanding students to receive 1.5 units of credit for developing a research project based on their own interests. Students completing the Honours program will be able to demonstrate professional abilities valuable in the workplace (research skills, oral presentation skills) as well as positioning themselves favorably for acceptance into graduate programs.

Honours students are invited to apply for the Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award ($1,500) and they are well placed to apply to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for $17,500 of base funding towards a Master’s degree.

The Honours program requires 3 units of a language other than English or French, 4.5 units of course work in French beyond that required for the Major, along with the completion of an Honours thesis (FRAN 499). The thesis consists of a bibliography-supported research paper of 5500–7000 words written under the guidance of a departmental supervisor chosen by the student in collaboration with the Honours Adviser. Once completed, the thesis will be defended in an oral presentation.

To apply to enter the program:

- Consult the Honours Adviser
- Choose a Supervisor
- Submit the one-page application form (the last page of this document) by the deadline:
  - September 30 for students graduating in April
  - January 30 for students graduating in December

Note that all FRAN courses must be completed with a minimum GPA of 6.0 before admission to the Honours program.
FRAN 499, the Honours Thesis

Proposal
The student must submit a proposal, due by the last day of classes of the term prior to completion of the thesis. The proposal should include:

- a description of the project, including the text(s) that will be studied and why they were chosen;
- a thesis statement;
- the theoretical/critical methodology that will be used and why it was chosen;
- how the study fits with previous studies of this topic;
- a bibliography of up to five primary works and at least five secondary works for literature theses; a bibliography of up to ten works for linguistics theses.

The proposal should be approximately 250–300 words long.

Supervision
At least a month prior to the 499 term, the student and supervisor should determine a mutually agreed-upon schedule for the preparation of the thesis. The supervisor’s role involves the following:

- choosing a second reader in consultation with the Honours Adviser;
- advising the student on any changes to the 499 proposal required by the Honours committee (supervisor, second reader, Honours Adviser);
- meeting with the student prior to the 499 term as well as in the 499 term to plan the thesis and to set up a schedule for completion;
- being available for consultation on research methods, thesis planning, and early drafts;
- providing timely feedback on student drafts;
- being available for consultation on revision;
- helping the student to prepare for the oral examination.

Any problems in supervision which cannot be resolved easily should be reported to the Honours Adviser.

Thesis
The thesis should have a computer word count of between 5,500 and 7,000 words, excluding notes and bibliography. The writing should be of top quality. It is expected that students proofread and edit the thesis to improve the language and eliminate errors.

Deadlines
- Last day of classes of the term prior to completion of the thesis: submit the thesis proposal to the supervisor and the Honours Adviser.
- Monday before Reading Break: first draft to the supervisor.
- Five weeks before end of classes: revised draft to the supervisor.
- Four weeks before end of classes: draft to the second reader.
• One week before end of classes, 4:00 pm: submission of the final version (both a paper version and an electronic version) to the Department office. An electronic version should also be sent at the same time to the supervisor, the second reader, and the Honours Adviser. The first page of the thesis should include the date and the mention “version finale”.

Except in circumstances recognized by the Honours Adviser as extraordinary, a student who does not submit his or her thesis to the Department by the final due date will be disqualified from the oral examination and from FRAN 499.

The Oral Examination
During the exam period there will be a scheduled interview with the examining committee, which consists of the supervisor, the second reader and the chair of the examination, normally the Honours Adviser. (When the supervisor or second reader is also the Honours Adviser, another faculty member will serve as chair of the examination.)

The student will give a brief introduction to the thesis (10–15 minutes), and then will be asked questions regarding it, including issues arising from the thesis and background readings. Questions will be asked by the second reader and supervisor, in that order. If time permits, another round of questions may be asked and the chair of the examination and other members of the audience may join in. The time scheduled for each oral examination is typically between one and one hour and one hour and a half.

An Honours degree requires a grade of B- or above in 499 with a graduating GPA of at least 4. It is not possible for an Honours candidate to achieve an Honours degree with a grade of C+ or lower in 499.

Students should know that the oral examination cannot negatively affect their 499 grade. Members of the committee meet immediately prior to the interview, and indicate to one another (though not to the student) what grade they feel the thesis merits. This grade will be recorded by the chair and as a consequence of the oral examination the grade may rise, but not fall. It may also stay the same. Immediately following the interview the student will be asked to withdraw from the room while the student’s supervisory committee, in consultation with the chair of the examination, determines the final grade. The student will be informed of the final grade by the chair immediately after the oral.
Honours Program in French
Application for Admission

Name:
Projected graduation date: (month, year)

Course work completed, in progress or yet to be completed (indicate semester):

• FRAN 275 (minimum C+)
• FRAN 280
• FRAN 290 (recommended, not required)
• FRAN 375
• FRAN 390 (minimum B)
• One of FRAN 380, 385, 400-409
• One of FRAN 400-409
• One of FRAN 410-419
• One of FRAN 420-429
• One of FRAN 430-449
• One of FRAN 450-459
• FRAN 499 (Honours thesis)
• 7.5 additional units of FRAN 325 and above
• Experience requirement: FRAN 250 or Co-op in a francophone environment or 1.5 units from a francophone university
• 3.0 units of a language other than French or English

Proposed topic (subject to modification):

Supervisor: Signature of Supervisor:
Honours Adviser: Signature of Honours Adviser:

Signature of student:

Date: