CMST 4999: Honours Essay

What is an Honours Essay?

The Honours essay is an opportunity to explore your own research interests in Communication and Media Studies by conducting an in-depth examination of a topic with the guidance of a faculty supervisor. The essay demonstrates the student's ability to:

- use appropriate methods of research, organization, and analysis;
- define a manageable research topic in Communication and Media Studies;
- comprehend and synthesize existing theoretical and critical material relevant to the topic;
- present the findings of their research in a logical and comprehensible manner, free of mechanical errors.

What are the benefits of doing an Honours Essay?

- The Honours essay is excellent preparation for graduate school in many fields;
- You get to undertake a project that is based on your own research interests;
- You have the opportunity to work under the guidance and supervision of a professor to develop your research and writing skills;
- Your work becomes part of the scholarly collection at the Centre for Newfoundland Studies and the Department of English.

How to proceed:

Your first step is to **arrange an appointment with the Program Director**. This meeting must take place in the semester before you intend to register in CMST 4999.

The Program Director will assign a supervisor to your project. You must then schedule a meeting with that faculty member to begin the process of narrowing your topic in preparation for writing the proposal.

Working with your supervisor, you will write a proposal for your project that will be submitted to the Program Director by the second week of the semester in which you are registered in CMST 4999.

CMST 4999 is a one semester course and Honours students are expected to be fully prepared to proceed and complete the essay by the end of the semester in which they are registered.

Tips:

- Students usually register for CMST 4999 in the final year of their program.
- Students are registered in CMST 4999 by the Program Director.
- Students are strongly advised to determine what they would like to research well ahead of the semester in which they intend to register for CMST 4999.
- The topic can relate to anything in the field of Communication and Media Studies in which the student is interested in working in depth and for which a supervisor can be found.

Still have questions?

Contact our Program Director, Dwayne Avery
davery@mun.ca

Writing the Honours Essay

The Proposal:

Your proposal is a brief overview of your topic. The proposal should be 2-3 pages in length (excluding bibliography and schedule) and must also include:

- a clearly articulated research question;
- scope, objectives, and methodology;
- relationship of research to existing literature on the subject;
- proposed schedule for completing the essay;
- preliminary bibliography of sources.

Once your supervisor has approved your proposal, send a copy to the Program Director for their approval.

The Honours Essay:

Once you have received approval from the Program Director you may begin writing. The essay should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length and should investigate its research question in depth and engage thoroughly with related research.

How is the Honours essay graded?

Once the final copies have been submitted to the supervisor and the Program Director, they will select a second reader. The supervisor and second reader both submit written feedback, recommendations, specific instructions for revisions, and a grade. These reports are sent to the Head of the Department and a final grade is agreed upon by the supervisor and second reader. The passing grade for an Honours essay is 70% and it may not be repeated or substituted (see University Calendar 6.5.1.1.c)

Suggested Schedule:

Week 1: Finalize the proposal with your supervisor, which should have been started prior to registering in CMST 4999.
Week 2: Submit the completed proposal to your supervisor and the Program Director.
Week 3-8: After approval of your proposal, meet regularly with your supervisor to discuss your progress as you draft your essay.
Week 10: Submit your final draft to your supervisor.
Weeks 10-11: Complete any revisions and send the completed essay to your supervisor and the Program Director.
Weeks 12-13: After receiving comments from the second reader, undertake any final revisions or corrections and submit the final copy to the Manager of Academic Programs and a completed Dissertation Release Form so that a copy of your essay can be placed in the QE II Library.

Still have questions?

Contact our Program Director, Dwayne Avery
davery@mun.ca