

AET 378H Honors Thesis

Meetings: TBD

Instructor: *Student is responsible for finding a Faculty Advisor*

Prerequisite: AET 139/170 Research Methods / Proseminar

Abstract

This course builds on the research methods course, which introduced students to academic research, professional writing and style guides, and how to create an abstract and bibliography. Upon completing this course, students will have a completed Honors Thesis based on their chosen research topic.

Students should present their proposal for the thesis to the Faculty Advisor and Honors Advisor no later than the first week of class. This should be in the form of an abstract, outline, and annotated bibliography (if the student is using the same topic they developed in the Research Methods course, they may resubmit the final from that course).

Assessment

Student progress will be reviewed at biweekly meetings with the Faculty Advisor and at the midpoint by the Honors Advisor and other Honors Thesis students. The final grade will be determined based on the student's completed thesis at the end of the semester and their active participation in feedback sessions along the way.

Note: Students must achieve an 'A' in this course in order to graduate with Honors.

Required Equipment

All students MUST have access to a computer. Either Mac or PC is fine.

Textbook / Resources

<https://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

Student should include their Bibliography from the Research Methods course as a resource

Units of Study

- ❖ **Conducting Research**
 - Exploring the UT Library catalogue
 - Finding relevant articles
 - Interviews/Experiments
- ❖ **Academic Writing**
 - Style guides
 - Using and citing existing research
 - Images and Graphs
- ❖ **Presenting Research**
 - Pitching
 - Publishing (*Honors students are strongly encouraged to submit to a Journal*)

Schedule

Wk	Topic	Assignment / Reading Due
1	Proposal Due	Proposal (abstract, annotated bibliography, outline)
9	Draft Critique (IEEE Format)	Submit Draft to Honors Advisor for critique from other Honors students
11	Writing Center	Visit the Writing Center to have your draft critiqued
16	Final	Final Honors Thesis (submit to Faculty Advisor and Honors Advisor)

Process

Note: This course carries the Writing Flag and Independent Inquiry Flag. At least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the grade is based on quality writing and involves iterating and improving the writing based on critique. At least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the grade is based on the student's independent process of inquiry as they explore their topic of interest with guidance by the Faculty Advisor.

Prior to beginning this course, the student should have a topic selected (most likely from the Research Methods course). During this course, the student will thoroughly research the topic using the UT library system to gather articles and conduct any exploration of the topic the student deems necessary (this might include interviews, technical experiments, surveys, etc), though the focus should be on existing literature. The completed product will be a written thesis of 8-10 pages long, formatted in the IEEE publishing format. *Students are strongly encouraged to submit their thesis for publication to a journal.*

Grades

Honors Thesis: 100%

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. To ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

A = 94-100 A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79 C = 74-76 C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69 D = 64-66 D- = 60-63
F = 0-60

Note: Students must achieve an 'A' in this course in order to graduate with Honors.

Class Attendance Policy

Discuss with Faculty Advisor (bi-weekly meetings recommended)

Q Drop Policy

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231: "Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259, ssd@austin.utexas.edu, <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>, or videophone 512-471-6644). Please provide documentation of your needs during the first week of class, if possible, so that I can make the necessary accommodations promptly.

University Attendance Policy: Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Integrity

The University's Honor Code states that "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." You are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline;
- and avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

(adapted from http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

Academic Dishonesty

In promoting a high standard of academic integrity, the University broadly defines academic dishonesty as including any act designed to give an unfair or undeserved academic advantage, such as:

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Unauthorized Collaboration / Collusion
- Falsifying Academic Records
- Misrepresenting Facts (e.g., providing false information to postpone an exam, obtain an extended deadline for an assignment, or even gain an unearned financial benefit)
- Multiple submissions (submitting essentially the same written assignment for two courses without authorization to do so)
- Any other acts (or attempted acts) that violate the basic standard of academic integrity

(adapted from http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_whatism.php)

Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

(from http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_faculty_syllabus.php)

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as

one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course requirement (from Sec. 11-402, <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/>).

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Student Support Services

There are numerous free and/or low-cost support services available to students at UT. They include (but are not limited to) the following:

Fine Arts Career Services (512-232-7333, utexas.edu/finearts/careers) provides a full range of services and resources to support students and alumni.

The Undergraduate Writing Center

(512-471-6222, uwc.utexas.edu) helps students with every phase of writing assignments for their courses.

The Sanger Learning Center (512-471-3614, utexas.edu/ugs/slc) provides study skills, time-management, and note-taking courses.

University Health Services (512-471-4955, healthyhorns.utexas.edu) provides medical and health promotion services for currently enrolled students and some non-students who are officially enrolled in certain University programs.

The Counseling and Mental Health Center (512-471-3515, cmhc.utexas.edu) helps students with their personal concerns so that they can meet the daily challenges of student life.

UT Electronic Mail Notification Policy

Electronic mail (e-mail) is a mechanism for official University and instructor communication to students. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University- and course-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. It is the responsibility of every student to keep the University and instructor informed of changes in his or her official e-mail address (do so at https://utdirect.utexas.edu/utdirect/bio/address_change.WBX). Consequently, e-mail returned to the University with "User Unknown" is not an acceptable excuse for missed communication. Similarly, undeliverable messages returned because of a full inbox or use of a spam filter will be considered delivered without further action required of the University or instructor. (see <http://www.utexas.edu/cio/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy>)