

**THE HONOURS THESIS IN
ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EASTERN STUDIES
(AMNE 499)
2023-24 Academic Year**

Admission into Honours Program

A student interested in applying to the Honours program should begin by consulting the Undergraduate Advisor to discuss their eligibility and how Honours would affect their schedule for the coming year. Admission into the Honours program requires an overall average of 76%, third-year status, and the permission of the department. Eligible students should provide the Undergraduate Advisor with the names of two AMNE faculty members who have agreed to serve as references for them. Your references can include a faculty member (or members) that you would like to work with as a supervisor but this is not required. Note that these referees will be consulted, but they do not need to provide formal letters of recommendation. These names should be submitted by **April 30, 2023**.

Choice of Area of Research

After a student is admitted into the Honours program, they should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to discuss the area of study or choice of a topic that will sustain their interest for twelve months of research and writing. At this meeting they will also discuss the selection of a supervisor. This meeting should occur before **May 20, 2023**.

No later than **June 15, 2023**, the student and supervisor will discuss the area of study, the compilation of a working bibliography, and a plan for gradually narrowing the area of study over the summer. The goal of the summer work is that the student acquires knowledge of the current research, develops a thesis topic, and outlines a proposal for its argument.

Supervisory Committee and Preliminary Research

The student's supervisory committee will consist of a primary supervisor and a second reader (to be selected by the primary supervisor and student together by **August 31, 2023**) who agree at the outset of the project on the student's topic, proposed aims, approach, and sources (if changes occur over the course of the next few months, the secondary supervisor must be notified). The primary supervisor will meet regularly with the student (usually at least once per month), virtually or in person. The second reader will typically read and offer feedback on one full draft of the thesis prior to the final submission.

Deadlines

1. By **April 30, 2023**, meet with the Undergraduate Advisor to discuss eligibility for Honours and submit the names of two AMNE faculty referees who are willing to support your application to be admitted into the Honours program.
2. By **May 20, 2023**, meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to discuss the area of research and the selection of a supervisor.
3. By **June 15, 2023**, meet with your primary supervisor to discuss each of your expectations and strategies for narrowing the topic and performing preliminary research over the summer.
4. By **September 16, 2023**, choose a second reader (who agrees to join the supervisory committee) and submit a draft of the thesis proposal to both the supervisor and second reader for feedback.
5. The final draft of the thesis proposal should be submitted to the supervisory committee and to the Director of Undergraduate Studies no later than **September 21, 2023** (in advance of the add/drop deadline for two-term courses on **September 26, 2023**). The proposal should include a working title, a description of the topic and the aims of the paper (300– 500 words), and an initial bibliography (1–2pp.). The approval form (below), signed by the supervisor and the second reader, should also be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies at this time (digital signatures are acceptable). Students who do not meet this deadline may be required to withdraw from the Honours program.
6. A draft of at least one-third of the thesis must be submitted to your supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies by **January 8, 2024**.
7. A first draft of the full thesis is due (submitted to the supervisor) by **March 1, 2024**.
8. Subsequent drafts are due as determined by the supervisory committee (primary supervisor and second reader). The second reader should have the opportunity to comment on at least one full draft of the thesis prior to the final submission.
9. The final draft, revised according to the supervisory committee's directions, is due on **April 7, 2024**. It should be submitted to each member of the committee and to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. A formal title page is to be attached to each copy (sample below).

If any of these deadlines is not met, the student's status will be reviewed by the committee and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. If progress is considered to be unsatisfactory, the student will be reclassified as a major. Students who are reclassified as majors after the university deadline to withdraw with a W standing may be assigned a failing grade for AMNE 499, in which case the course will not be eligible for credit towards the student's degree program.

Students facing exceptional circumstances that interfere with their ability to meet these deadlines and/or complete the Honours thesis should apply for Academic Concession through Arts Advising.

The Grade

The grade for the course will be determined by the committee solely on the basis of the final thesis as submitted on **April 13, 2024**. The passing grade for the thesis is 68%. If a passing grade is not achieved, the student will be reclassified as a major and receive the grade for AMNE 499 that was determined by the supervisory committee. The credits for AMNE 499 and/or the 12 additional subject-specific course credits required of an Honours emphasis may not in this case count towards credits required of a Major emphasis, so this reclassification may result in the student needing to take additional outside elective credits in a subsequent term.

In the event that an agreement cannot be reached between the supervisor and second reader as to the grade for the thesis, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will be consulted. If the DUS is serving as supervisor or reader, the Department Head will be consulted. If both the DUS and Head are supervisor and/or reader, one of the Area Chairs will be consulted.

A passing Honours thesis will meet the following standards:

Overall Argument

- Exceptional, nuanced argument with no factual errors
- Shows evidence of deep reflection on pertinent issues
- Demonstrates original analytical thinking
- Shows awareness of counter-arguments

Mastery of Primary Sources

- Supports almost all claims made by author in the thesis with direct reference to the appropriate textual, visual, and/or archaeological forms of evidence
- Critically engages with the primary sources as appropriate for the topic under discussion

Mastery of Scholarship

- Engages critically with the arguments, methods, or analyses of some of the main scholarly works on the topic, particularly recent scholarship
- Challenging scholarly opinions when appropriate
- Usefully juxtaposes different scholarly methods and conclusions

Organization and Style

- Systematically develops ideas in seamless progression
- Has a strong, clear, and nuanced thesis statement that structures the argument throughout
- Employs clear and helpful divisions of chapters and/or sections

- Consistently follows a particular set of style conventions (agreed upon with the supervisor)
- Has clear topic sentences
- Is polished, with limited grammatical errors

Students should plan to discuss more specific grading expectations with their primary supervisor.

Form of the Thesis

The final essay will normally be about 10,000 words in length, including footnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices. A table of contents can be included when appropriate.

Expectations

The thesis is a major academic undertaking. Students are encouraged to think of the effort expected in terms of that expected of a demanding six-credit, fourth-year seminar; they will be putting into their research and writing *at least* the equivalent of three hours of class per week (3 x 13 weeks x 2 semesters = 78 hours), and three hours of preparation for each class (3 x 78 = 234 hours); that is a total of 312 hours of work at a minimum. Submitted work that does not demonstrate a commitment of this scale will not receive a passing grade.

GRADUATING ESSAY APPROVAL FORM

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

HONOURS IN: _____

The subject of my graduating essay is:

PRIMARY SUPERVISOR: _____

SECOND READER: _____

APPROVAL DATED: _____

[TITLE OF ESSAY]

by

[NAME]

A graduating essay submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
in
The Faculty of Arts
The University of British Columbia

We accept this essay as conforming to the required standard:

Primary Supervisor: _____

Second Reader: _____

Department of Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies

Date: _____