

## Earth and Ocean Sciences 499: Honours Thesis

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**Calendar Description:** A research project conducted under the direction of faculty.

**Course Website:** <http://web.uvic.ca/~monahana/honours/>

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### Overview

The Honours thesis provides students an opportunity to conduct an independent research project under the direction of a faculty member, normally during their final year of study. A student should discuss potential research projects with faculty members (both full-time and adjunct) and decide on a project by the beginning their final year (at the latest). The thesis should be submitted to the supervisor by the last day of classes in second term. All EOS 499 students must give a 15 minute public presentation describing their research in one of two fora: a departmental seminar series scheduled in the last three weeks of the Winter semester, or a special seminar in the last three weeks of the Fall semester (intended for students graduating at the end of the Fall semester).

A table of approximate milestones for students enrolled in EOS 499 from September to April is:

Beginning of September	Inform Honours Advisor of research supervisor and general topic
End of September	Thesis proposal submitted to Honours Advisor
Mid-December	Finish collection and synthesis of data and background material
Early January	Detailed thesis outline completed
Early February	Introduction, Background and Methods sections written
Last Day of Classes	Honours thesis due

### The Honours Thesis

The point of the Honours thesis is to introduce students to the process of conducting independent scientific inquiry. Literature searches do not constitute material for Honours theses unless a significant amount of material from the existing literature is reinterpreted in an original way. Moreover, excessive literature searches and summaries of previous methods/studies in the thesis are not warranted. A two page proposal of the thesis, outlining the nature of the study, is submitted to the Honours Advisor at the end of September.

The Honours thesis should consist of a Title Page, Abstract, List of Tables, List of Figures, Introduction, Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, and Bibliography (References Cited). Students should aim for a length of 50 to 70 pages.

Final drafts of Honours theses are due the last day of classes in the second term, and a presentation of the material is approximately two weeks beforehand. At least three copies of the final draft of the thesis are to be submitted to the Honours Advisor unbound, with no holes, in a folder. The School will pay for the binding of three of these copies: one for each of SEOS, the supervisor, and the student. Binding of extra copies of the thesis at the expense of the student or the supervisor will be organised by SEOS, if desired. Furthermore, an electronic copy of the thesis for the SEOS archives should also be provided. Students should view other “model” B.Sc. theses in the department office for further details of format, etc.

### **Role of Thesis Supervisor**

The supervisor should oversee the research, and should be SEOS full or adjunct faculty. Periodic meetings with the student should occur to check progress. In the event that a thesis is being supervised by an adjunct professor, a representative supervisor in SEOS is required to help with these duties.

### **Role of Honours Advisor**

The Honours Advisor admits students to the Honours Program, and confirms that rules and regulations for thesis material, content, and submission are being met. This person also schedules the end-of-term seminars, and will view the final grades of all supervisors of Honours theses.

### **Assessment**

Evaluation for EOS 499 is based upon a written thesis marked by the supervisor and evaluated by the Honours Advisor. The Final Presentation grade is determined by a committee convened by the Honours Advisor, with criteria including the quality of both the research and the presentation.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Thesis	90%
	Final Presentation	10 %

<b>Grading:</b>	A+ (90-100)	A (85-90)	A- (80-85)	B+ (75-80)	B (70-75)
	B- (65-70)	C+ (60-65)	C (55-60)	D (50-55)	F (0-50)