

Earth and Ocean Sciences 499A/B: Honours Thesis

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Office Hours	By appointment

Calendar Description

499A: The first stage of a research project conducted under the direction of a faculty member. Open to Honours students only 1.5 units.

499B: Continuation of a research project conducted under the direction of a faculty member. Open to Honours students only 1.5 units. Prerequisites: EOS 499A.

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 regular and adjunct) and decide on a project by the beginning of their final year at the latest. The Honours Thesis requires two terms to complete.

Approximate milestones for students enrolled in EOS 499 from September to April are:

Beginning of term	Inform Honours Advisor of research supervisor and topic
October 1	Thesis proposal <u>due</u> to Honours Advisor and supervisor(s)
end of 499A	Finish collection and synthesis of data and background material
beginning of 499B	Detailed thesis outline completed
Early February	Introduction, Background and Methods sections written
Mid-March	

obtaining samples or instrument time etc... or significant illness. Inform the Honours Advisor when an extension is granted. Honours theses submitted late (without an extension) will normally be penalized 1% per working day.

Topic

The point of the Honours thesis is to introduce students to the process of conducting independent scientific research. 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.

Thesis proposal

A two-page proposal of the thesis is submitted to the Honours Advisor and to your thesis supervisor(s) at the end of the first month of EOS499A (end of September for fall/spring students). This proposal should summarize the intended project, agreed to by the student and supervisor. Points to include are the goals of the project, wider importance, methods to be used in carrying out the project, expectations for the outcome.

Assessment

Evaluation for EOS 499A/Bis based upon a written thesis marked by the supervisor and a public oral presentation. A committee convened by the Honours Advisor determines the oral presentation grade, with criteria including the quality of both the research and the presentation. An award is given each year for the best Honours thesis.