

Senior Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis

UHON 499 (27840), 490 (21399), 491 (21400) | TIMES ARRANGED

Dr. Troy Lovata, Senior Thesis Coordinator

The Senior Thesis is one of four capstone options for graduating seniors. The thesis is an interdisciplinary culmination of the diverse topics students encounter throughout their studies in the University Honors Program. Additionally, a few departments at UNM may not offer a Senior Honors Thesis option, may not have faculty members available to oversee a student's research or may not offer students the opportunity research across disciplines. By selecting the interdisciplinary Senior Honors Thesis, students are able to work with any one of the outstanding faculty members or instructors in the UHP. The Senior Honors Thesis is a 3-semester, 7-credit hour undertaking.

Thesis Prep Semester: UHON 499

The prep semester lets students focus on understanding the Senior Honors Thesis process, identify faculty who can facilitate research and writing, and craft a Thesis Proposal. Students register for UHON 499 Independent Study (1 credit hour) with any willing UHP Continuing Faculty Member: Drs. Leslie Donovan, Chris Holden, Celia López-Chávez, Troy Lovata, Diane Rawls, Ursula Shepherd, and Michael Thomas. This faculty member will help you organize your ideas and formalize the thesis proposal. The prep instructor you choose does not need to have direct knowledge of your intended topic of study and does not have to serve on your Thesis Committee. The prep instructor is merely a mentor there to help students negotiate the University and organize initial research. Students will meet regularly with their prep instructor to complete the Thesis Proposal Packet and identify scholars to serve on the student's Thesis Committee, which includes the Thesis Coordinator, a Thesis Advisor and a Reader.

Research & Reading Semester: UHON 490

Students register for UHON 490 Reading and Research (3 credits) once the Thesis Proposal Packet is approved by the Thesis Coordinator. Students spend this semester completing the research into their theses topics in regular consultation with the Thesis Advisor. The Thesis Coordinator also assigns short, required exercises that help students assemble a bibliography, hone their methodologies, and refine research. There are 3 to 4 meetings with the Thesis Coordinator and other thesis students over the course of this semester. These are excellent opportunities for students to share as colleagues the various successful research and writing techniques and strategies. These group meetings are required portions of the process—you cannot complete the thesis without attending. Students meet with their Thesis Advisor on a more regular basis as required to complete their research. The semester ends with the production of an 8 to 10 page draft of the thesis.

Writing & Presentation Semester: UHON 491

Students register for UHON 491 Senior Honors Thesis (3 credits) during the final semester. This portion of the Senior Honors Thesis option requires students to synthesize their research into a written thesis and oral presentation. First is the actual writing of the thesis. Students work with their Thesis Committee to determine their own schedules for completing any outlines or preliminary drafts. The completed thesis should be at least 30, double-spaced, word-processed pages in length (excluding endnotes and bibliography). After the Thesis Advisor approves the thesis it should be submitted to the UHP Thesis Coordinator by the end of the 13th week of the semester. A Thesis Abstract and a Senior Honors Thesis Form must accompany the final manuscript. Thesis candidates are also required to present an oral summary of their research at the UHP Thesis Presentation Day shortly before finals week. The Thesis Coordinator directs this part of the semester, helps students distill their research into a 20 to 30-minute oral presentation, and organizes 2 to 3 required practice sessions for each student.

For more information about Interdisciplinary Theses contact Dr. Troy Lovata, Senior Thesis Coordinator, by phone at 277-3663, by e-mail at lovata@unm.edu or visit his office in room 2B of the Honors Center.