



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

FACULTY OF ARTS

French Studies

HONOURS /HDR Preliminary Guide 2016

Honours Moderator (French Studies)

Professor H el ene Jaccomard

Phone: 6488-2173

helene.jaccomard@uwa.edu.au

**Honours Coordinator (Discipline Group of European
Languages & Studies)**

Dr Kati Tonkin

Phone: 6488-2153

kati.tonkin@uwa.edu.au

Administrative Officer (School of Humanities)

Milda Whitaker

Phone : 6488 2174

milda.whitaker@uwa.edu.au

100

Contents

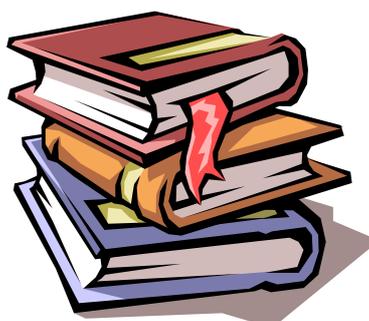
| | |
|--|----|
| AN HONOURS DEGREE IN FRENCH..... | 3 |
| The Renè Lèvy Memorial Award..... | 3 |
| Sedgwick Languages Scholarship..... | 4 |
| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES FOR HONOURS COURSES..... | 4 |
| Requirements..... | 4 |
| The Honours Year..... | 4 |
| How To Apply For Acceptance Into The Honours Programme..... | 5 |
| Deadlines for Application:..... | 5 |
| How to Apply for Acceptance into the Honours Program..... | 5 |
| Dissertation Pre-Proposal And Proposal..... | 6 |
| Course Structure..... | 6 |
| Honours Assessment..... | 8 |
| Honours Dissertation..... | 8 |
| Role Of The Supervisor..... | 9 |
| Useful Resources For Writing An Hons Dissertation In French Studies..... | 9 |
| Dissertation Timeline..... | 10 |
| Dissertation Presentation..... | 11 |
| Documentation In Written Work..... | 11 |
| Appendix A: Proposal of Interest..... | 12 |

AN HONOURS DEGREE IN FRENCH

One of the French programme's objectives is to maintain and promote quality of research by staff and students in order to facilitate and advance knowledge. The aim of the Honours program is to foster the development of research and writing skills among the most accomplished final year students. Students will be required to cultivate and demonstrate critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis. An Honours degree is a proven asset for improved career prospects.

Moreover an Honours degree is one of the favoured pathways towards higher research, and an opportunity to identify and nurture potential postgraduate students. Students have the option of writing their Honours, Masters or PhD theses in French or in English, although we encourage post-WACE students and near-native speakers to write in French to align with best national and international practice.

The French Honours programme includes the opportunity to study in more depth relevant aspects of French language, literature and/or culture. It is also the first opportunity in students' academic experience to participate in the Discipline Group's lively research culture, sustained by regular research seminars.



The René Lévy Memorial Award

<http://spe.publishing.uwa.edu.au/latest/scholarships/undergraduate/levy>

Students undertaking French Honours are invited to apply by March 31 (or August 31 for sem. 2 intake) of their Honours year for the René Lévy Memorial Award, which annually funds one student for a study trip to France. The award, with a value of approximately \$4,500, is open to students (other than native speakers of French) who are enrolled in Honours. The winner of the award spends the time between semesters in France.

In applying for the award, students should give details of the ways in which a stay in France will benefit their Honours studies, and should explain what they hope to gain in general from visiting France. They should explore the possibilities of a suitable short course in Paris or the provinces and this should be mentioned in their application. They should also include a written estimate from a travel agent detailing their travel costs, and their own estimate of their expected expenses in France and planned duration of their stay. They are expected to write a report upon their return reflecting on the benefits of the award for their progress in French Studies.

"Instructions for Applicants" information sheets are available from the Admin. Officer, room 2.22.

Sedgwick Languages Scholarship

http://spe.publishing.uwa.edu.au/latest/Section1/scholarships/undergraduate_scholarships/f51417

This scholarship provides funds (\$4000) to assist a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) student enrolled in French, German, Italian or Asian Studies to travel to a country and undertake part of their Honours program where the language in their area of study is widely spoken. Details for applications are available on the above website.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES FOR HONOURS COURSES

Students interested in doing Honours in French should contact Prof. H el ene Jaccomard (Honours Moderator for French) for a preliminary discussion. Subject to their acceptance in the Honours program, students enrol at the normal time (see Procedures below). According to the topics in which students show interest, the Honours Moderator will determine who their supervisor will be. Students are invited to browse the French programme's website to familiarise themselves with the French staff's areas of interest.

<http://www.humanities.uwa.edu.au/research/european-languages>

Requirements

For entry to Honours the normal requirements are as follows: The minimum standard admission for the Bachelor of Arts end-on Honours degree course is an average mark of at least 65% in the Level 3 units of the major relating to the proposed disciplinary field of the Honours course or equivalent. Students who do not meet the standard requirements may still apply for admission to Honours, but a special case needs to be made.

Please be aware that the approval of the Faculty is required before students are formally accepted for Honours. In their third year, students applying for Honours should have successfully completed the language sequence, FREN3405/3406, 3407/3408 or 3409, and their French major.

The Honours Year

The French Honours programme comprises a fourth year of study after completion of the requirements for a BA degree with a major in French. It is also possible for students to apply for enrolment in joint Honours courses with the Special Approval of the Discipline Group Honours Coordinator/Heads of the Discipline Groups concerned. The appropriate spread of coursework and dissertation will need to be discussed with the Honours coordinator of the Disciplines concerned. Cognate and Combined Honours courses are available with other Discipline Groups, such as English, Philosophy, Fine Arts, History, Politics, etc.

Here are some options:

- You can do your coursework in another Discipline and your dissertation in French Studies, or vice-versa.
- You can divide your coursework between French and another Discipline, and have your thesis jointly supervised by Staff in two Disciplines.

We will help you design the course most appropriate for your interests and career prospects.

It is also possible to begin Honours in second semester and continue over the summer vacation, completing in first semester the following year. Or, if you prefer to work part-time while completing Honours, your course can be staggered over three or four semesters.

It is also possible to include a semester of Study abroad in the first semester of your Honours year (there are exchange agreements with French and Canadian universities relevant to your studies) where you may study the whole of your coursework. Upon your return you will then spend one or two semesters (part-time) to research and write your dissertation. Again this needs to be approved by Prof. H el ene Jacquemard.

How To Apply For Acceptance Into The Honours Programme

Deadlines for Application:

Applications for semester 1 commencement open in October and close mid-November. Students are advised to submit their applications early. (Late applications are normally accepted until January 31, but will attract a fee.)

Applications for mid-year commencement are usually due in June.

HDR Preliminary: no set date, but no applications are accepted after semester starts, except under special circumstances. Best to apply as early as possible.

How to Apply for Acceptance into the Honours Program

Make an appointment with the Honours Coordinator to discuss your Honours application. You will be given a set of unit codes to include in your online application which you complete via Student Connect.

Your application will be processed by the Faculty and Student Administration will contact you by email with further instructions regarding the enrolment process before the beginning of semester (note: this process can take several weeks and notification does not normally occur before January). It is important that you enrol by the due dates in order to avoid paying late fees. Changes to enrolment do not incur fees.

Please note that the details (units etc.) of your enrolment can be changed in consultation with the Honours Coordinator after you have enrolled. However in order to change your Honours enrolment, you must obtain a Special Approval form from the Honours Coordinator outlining your revised program of study and get a Change of Enrolment form from Student Administration.

After completing the application procedure (but before you enrol) you should make an appointment with your proposed supervisor. The Honours Coordinator will advise you on what to prepare for this preliminary meeting, and will give you material to help you make a decision regarding an appropriate dissertation topic and to help you understand the role of your supervisor. This meeting to discuss your dissertation topic should take place before the Christmas break for dissertations beginning in semester 1 or in June for dissertations beginning in semester 2.

Dissertation Pre-Proposal And Proposal

Students are required to submit a pre-proposal of approximately 200 words to their assigned supervisors outlining their area of interest, text/s or sources, working title and preliminary bibliography, using the template provided. The pre-proposal is due in early December for students beginning their dissertation enrolment in semester 1 and in early July for those beginning their dissertation enrolment in semester 2. (See template at the end of this document)

Course Structure

Four seminars (4 x 6 points = 24 points)

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|----------|
| FREN4101 | Honours Seminar 1 | Advanced Research Skills | 6 points |
| FREN4103 | Honours Seminar 3 | Advanced French Cultural Studies | 6 points |
| FREN4102 | Honours Seminar 2 | Teaching and Practice of Teaching French as a Second Language | 6 points |
| FREN4104 | Honours Seminar 4 | Advanced Writing Skills | 6 points |

FREN4101 Advanced Research Skills (6 points, semester 1 or semester 2 – compulsory for all ELS honours students)

Unit Coordinator: Associate Professor Kati Tonkin

This seminar is run by the Honours Coordinator for European Languages and Studies and attended by honours students from European Studies, French, German and Italian. The seminar examines major aspects of developing a research project (in this case your honours dissertation): formulating a research question in relation to existing knowledge; developing a formal research proposal; structuring the project/dissertation; and advanced academic style. Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback on draft proposals from their peers in a supportive environment. Assessment will be based on the written research proposal and its presentation, a draft chapter of the dissertation and seminar participation.

FREN4103 Advanced French Cultural Studies (6 points, semester 1)

Unit Coordinator: Professor H el ene Jaccomard

Taught in French, this seminar will further students' knowledge of the French and/or Francophone literary canon from the 17th through to the 20th centuries. Students will also explore issues raised by literary canons, including: "How can we explain the rise of some literary texts to canonical status?"; "What is the role played in this process by cultural and historical contexts?"; "Who or what is excluded from such a canon?"; "Are there any common features to canonical literary texts?" ; "Are these contested?"; "How did linguistic, literary, cultural traits of such canonical texts evolve over the course of centuries?"

Your tasks will include: (1) reading one text per fortnight; (2) discussing texts with the course coordinator and your peers during fortnightly seminars (30%); (3) writing notes of your reading and building annotated bibliographies of secondary sources (20%); (4) setting questionnaires for your peers, and responding to your peers' questionnaires (10%); (5) writing one research essay (40%).

Possible texts to be studied:

Primary sources:

17th century: Molière, Tartuffe; 18th century: Voltaire, Candide; 19th century: Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary; Emile Zola, Germinal or La vérité; 20th century: Albert Camus, L'Étranger; Nathalie Sarraute, Enfance; Camara Laye, L'Enfant noir

Secondary source: John Guillory, Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Formation, UP Chicago, 1993

FREN4102 Teaching and Practice of Teaching French as a Second language (6 points, Semester 2)

Unit Coordinator: Associate Professor Bonnie Thomas

This unit instructs students in the theory of teaching foreign languages in general, and gives them the opportunity to put this theory into practice for French as a foreign language, by teaching two classes at Beginners or Intermediate level for one semester. Students will also attend classes in other parts of the unit in which they are teaching and meet on a weekly or fortnightly basis with their teaching mentor. A weekly asynchronous discussion (in English) on theoretical issues will take place with other students enrolled in their respective Teaching and Practice unit in European Languages and Studies. The unit further develops cultural and linguistic skills acquired at undergraduate level while providing students with the skills required to teach French as a foreign language.

Assessment is comprised of a critical essay on teaching methodology, participation in online theory seminars, peer reflection and a teaching portfolio.

FREN4104 Advanced Writing Skills (6 points, Semester 2)

Unit Coordinator: TBA

This seminar is designed to extend students' written competence. While the range of teaching and learning activities in this seminar are intended to strengthen students' grasp of French discursive practices and methods of argumentation, they will also expand knowledge of contemporary French society and culture. Proficiency should reach the CEFR's C1 level and thus equip students for the rigours of postgraduate studies in French. Assessment comprises seminar preparation and participation in discussions (30%); written assignments (40%); oral presentations (30%).

Dissertation (2 x 12 points = 24 points)

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| FREN4140 | Dissertation (French Studies) 1 | Semester 1 | 12 points |
| FREN4141 | Dissertation (French Studies) 2 | Semester 2 | 12 points |

A dissertation of 12,000 to 15,000 words. Students have the option of writing their Honours, Masters or PhD theses in French or in English, although we encourage post-secondary students and near-native speakers to write in French as this is considered the best national and international practice. Should English be adopted as the language of the dissertation, a 1,000-word summary of the dissertation in French must be submitted as a separate document.

The dissertation is to be written over two semesters (12 points per semester). Should students elect to do their coursework during a Study Abroad semester, then they have the choice of completing the thesis over one semester, or part-time, over two semesters.

As an Honours student you are invited to attend and participate in regular Discipline Group Research and work-in-progress seminars where staff, research fellows, and postgraduate

students present their works in progress, and discuss literary and cultural issues in an informal setting.

You are also strongly encouraged to attend the Honours Workshops organised by Student Services. <http://www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au/ss/learning>

Honours Assessment

Grading of the Honours Year, taking into consideration the dissertation (half of the final mark) and the coursework (half of the final mark), is as follows:

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|
| Honours results are awarded as: | | |
| 80-100% | First Class Honours | (H1) |
| 70-79% | Second Class Honours, Division 1 | (H2A) |
| 60-69% | Second Class Honours, Division 2 | (H2B) |
| 50-59% | Third Class Honours | (H3) |
| Results for the HDR Preliminary are expressed as: | | |
| PQ | (Prelim Qualified) | |
| PN | (Prelim Not Qualified) | |

Honours Dissertation

Students are strongly encouraged to talk to their lecturers and to come up with their specific topic of interest.

Following are some broad areas from which they could choose:

| <i>Literary and Cultural Studies</i> | <i>Socio-Historical Studies</i> | <i>Linguistics and Language Studies</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| • Literary History and Criticism | • Post-Colonial Studies | • Language Acquisition |
| • Comparative Literature | • Ethnic and national Studies | • Language Teaching and Learning |
| • Drama Studies | • Gender and Ethnicity | • French in Australia, Australians in France |
| • Intellectual History | • France-Australia | |
| • Film Studies | | |

Recent Honours dissertations titles:

- L'échafaudage de la mémoire: cinq films traitant de l'Occupation allemande (1954-1987) [cinema and history]
- L'assaut de l'écran: réflexions sur la nouveauté de la Nouvelle Vague [cinema studies]
- "Could the rules be so different in France?" An analysis of the difficulties of intercultural communication between native French speakers and native speakers of Australian English in Sarah Turnbull's *Almost French* [intercultural studies]
- "Représentation des beurs dans la littérature des années 2000" [literature and post-colonial migration]
- "La Chanson autobiographique: le cas d'Yves Duteil" [literature, culture and songs]
- "Arlette Laguillier: From the Political margins to National Icon" [political sciences]
- "The Urban Space as a Force of Social Alienation: A Comparison of the Desert and the Urban Space in J.M.G. Le Clézio's *Désert* and *Poisson d'or*" [literature and society]

- “Les raisons pour lesquelles les parents francophones envoient leurs enfants à 1, 2, 3 Soleil – l’école française de Perth” [bilingualism and education]
- Être français en Australie : Malentendus et stéréotypes à la lumière de la métalangue sémantique naturelle [language studies and migration]

Preparatory work for the dissertation should begin before or during the summer vacation (or the mid-year break in case of mid-year entry). This includes wide reading on topics of interest, on canonical literature in order to identify a topic and formulate a working title. During your Honours year resources not available at UWA Libraries can be ordered via Interlibrary loans (“GetIt”), on a needs basis.

Meetings with your supervisor to discuss the particular problems of your dissertation take place fortnightly for one hour (or 1/2 hour weekly) from the beginning of semester one (or semester two in case of mid-year entry). You will submit your chapters, or sections of chapters as you progress with your research. Your work will be read and returned promptly with comments on form and content. This can be done by email attachments, with suggestions written directly on your document. [See below: Role of the supervisor]

The Hons dissertation must be submitted on the last Friday of the final week of semester (two printed copies and a soft copy on a USB key, returned to the student). The Hons dissertation will be marked by one external examiner and one internal examiner.

Role Of The Supervisor

Supervision of your thesis will be done by one of the permanent staff in the French program. Your supervisor will help you:

- formulate your topic
- discuss concepts
- plan and carry out your research
- collect and organise your material, bibliography and webography
- structure the argument in a fashion that will make it logical, persuasive and informed
- formulate findings

LANGUAGE of the thesis:

If you choose to write your dissertation in French, it will be assumed that your command of French has reached an Advanced level (B2/C1). When submitting pieces of writing (whether in French or in English) to your Supervisor, ensure that you have checked the language for correctness (in particular gender, agreements, and verb forms), and the argument for clarity. Supervisors will help with the language within reason.

Useful Resources For Writing An Hons Dissertation In French Studies

Françoise Grauby, Recherche : Mode d’emploi, méthodologie de recherches pour les étudiants de français. Sydney: University of Sydney, 1996 [HSS Q 808.027 1996 REC]

Joseph Gibaldi, and Walter S. Achtert, MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, New York: Modern Language Association of America, latest edition. [808.027 2003 MLA]

Dissertation Timeline

It is most important that you meet the following deadlines. Failure to do so can constitute grounds for unsatisfactory progress. The first two columns show you the timeline depending on whether you enter Honours at the beginning of the University year or mid-year.

| If you start in Semester 1... | If you start in Semester 2... | If you go on exchange Semester 1... | You need to do the following... |
|--|--|--|---|
| Nov/Dec/Jan | May/June | Nov/Dec/Jan | Preliminary discussions with supervisor regarding areas of interest and possible topics; finalization of area of interest, writing up of a pre-proposal (form enclosed); do some reading; |
| Feb/early March | June/early July | Dec/Jan | Finalise topic with supervisor; finalise material (works etc.) to be included; formulate a working title, research plan and preliminary bibliography; |
| Late March | Late August | Jun/July | Complete research proposal; read secondary literature; |
| April/May | End November | July/August | Draft introduction; read further secondary literature; |
| End May/early June | End January | August/September | Draft chapter/section one (or at least 4,000 words); |
| End June | End February | September | Draft chapter/section two; |
| Early August | End March | September | Draft chapter/section three (if relevant, or at least 8,000 words); |
| Early September | April | October | Draft conclusion; |
| Early October | End May | October | Final draft with acknowledgements, documentation and bibliography for checking by supervisor; |
| <i>Friday of the last teaching week Sem. 1</i> | <i>Friday of the last teaching week Sem. 2</i> | <i>Friday of the last teaching week Sem. 2</i> | <i>Submission to your supervisor, of 2 copies of completed dissertation (photocopied and bound at the student's cost) and on a USB key (which will be returned to you) Deadline: noon or before. Penalties, ie. loss of grade, for late submission without prior arrangement will apply;</i> |
| Mid-November | July | Mid-November | Reports returned by Examiners Results are finalised. |

Dissertation Presentation

- Margins: (approx.): Left and right: 3cm. Top and bottom: 2cm.
- Spacing: Doubled-spaced.
- Footnotes: At the bottom of the page or at the end of the chapter, in single spacing.
- Title page: see sample below.

On the second page, before the "Table of Contents" ("Table des matières") you must also write the following paragraph regarding plagiarism and **duly sign it**:

"I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research, written in the full knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism and documented accordingly, and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any university. I consent [or "do not consent"] to the publication of this document on the internet via a UWA site."

Documentation In Written Work

The following guidelines are based on the *MLA Handbook* and should suffice for your needs.

Scholarly work is generally based on, and represents a continuation of, the research of earlier generations of writers. It is not only necessary and common practice but also a sign of maturity to use correct documentation of sources in your own work. This means that you must cite the sources of ALL the evidence used in your own work and be meticulous in the presentation of references. This is not only a question of intellectual integrity in acknowledging indebtedness; it also helps the reader/teacher to establish the validity of the evidence you have produced, to follow it through, and to aid your progress with advice and criticism.

Bibliography (cf. *MLA Handbook*, ch. 4, pp. 86-154)

All works and articles consulted, whether mentioned in your essay or not must be included in a **bibliography** at the end of your work.



Information in this publication is correct at the date above but is subject to change. In particular, the University reserves the right to change the content and/or the method of presentation and/or the method of assessment of any unit of study, to withdraw any unit of study or program, and/or to vary arrangements for any program

**EUROPEAN LANGUAGES & STUDIES
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

**PROPOSAL OF INTEREST
FRENCH STUDIES HONOURS**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Area of Interest

Outline in approximately 200 words the area you are considering focusing on in your Hons dissertation. Please append in typewritten form.

As a means of beginning, you might like to look through your lecture notes from previous French Studies courses, in order to pinpoint those areas which you found most interesting. At this stage you should simply outline the area (or areas) in which you are interested in carrying out research. This will form the basis for your first discussions with your supervisor.

You should include:

- Major topics or features to be discussed;
- Chief authors, works, text, film or other object of study;
- Time period of study;
- Critical or theoretical methodologies to be adopted;
- Courses you have studied which provide you with background for this topic.

Example

*I am interested in following up the study of themes of life writing in literature. I was particularly interested in the conflict between truth and writing, memory and nostalgia, French identity and African ethnicity in Camara Laye's *L'Enfant noir*, a novel I studied during my undergraduates studies. The narrator deals imaginatively with the loss of his childhood, his country and his parents, and recreates all those through the writing of his autobiography. However there are a lot of silences, distortions, unknown and untold events which I think needs to be borne in mind to interpret the true meaning of this text. Based on my reading of secondary literature on life writing and a comparison with other narratives of childhoods (such as Patrick Chamoiseau's *Chemin d'école*), I want to investigate the strengths and limitations of *L'Enfant noir* as an example of the writing of a childhood. (150 words)*

Text/Source

What text or sources do you propose to base your research on?

In the above example, the choice of text is determined by the topic, Camara Laye's *L'Enfant noir*. If, however, your interest is primarily in a theme, such as the representation of childhood, you will have to identify a text or texts (ie literary texts, Patrick Chamoiseau's *Chemin d'école*) or other material for study such as theoretical texts (Philippe Lejeune's *Autobiography*), or other material for study.

Thesis Question

Can you redefine and reduce your area of interest above to a short statement of a problem to be researched?

This should be a single sentence in the form of a question.

Example

How faithful is Camara Laye to his life in the writing of his childhood? Is it possible to write faithfully about one's childhood memories?

Title

Now try to put your thesis-question into the form of a title.

This should take the form of a short (2-4 words) heading followed by a colon and a sub-title indicating the topic and the text.

Example

Life writing and childhood: the case of Camara Laye

Preliminary Bibliography

This is not intended to be an exhaustive literature search; at this stage a short checklist of works is required under the following headings:

- * important items already read
- * important items to be read in the next 6-8 weeks.

Please fill out this form, or staple your Proposal of Interest to this coversheet. Make an appointment to see the Honours Moderator and submit your Proposal at least 2 days before your appointment. This should be done in December (or May for mid-year entry) if possible, but in any case before the end of January (or June). It is important that you begin work on your dissertation during the summer vacation. You will be obliged to submit a final Research Proposal late March (or late August).