



School of Political and Social Inquiry
Clayton Campus

Honours Program Information

2008

www.arts.monash.edu.au/schools/psi/

Monash University

School of Political and Social Inquiry

A Guide to Honours (Fourth Year)

The BA (Honours) course provides you with an intensive year of study and independent research. A central part of the Honours program is a dissertation that offers the opportunity to carry out in-depth research on a topic of interest to you. You will work closely with a supervisor who will guide you in the devising, development and management of your project. At the end you will have learnt how to formulate a topic of research; how to collect and critically assess relevant information on the research topic; and how to write a report on the results of your research. In doing the Honours dissertation, you will be producing your first fully developed research project, an experience most people never forget. Later in life you may not remember the essays you wrote as a Monash student, but you will always remember the topic of your Honours dissertation, and remember it as an intellectual challenge and achievement.

Why do Honours?

The BA Honours course equips students with a level of research skills far beyond those acquired in studies for the pass degree. An Honours degree is a prerequisite for entry to postgraduate research degrees. It is also highly valued in the employment market as evidence of an applicant's ability to undertake independent work and produce clearly written reports. Even in fields unrelated to your specific Honours study a BA (Honours) is rightly regarded as an indication of your capacity to analyse problems, understand concepts and communicate ideas and facts.

The Honours degree is intended to develop (1) your skills of analysis: being able to sort and distinguish things according to logical criteria, or becoming more aware of causal links and relations, or acquiring a more sophisticated sense of intellectual discrimination; (2) your skills of synthesis: being able to make connections, sometimes unexpected, to devise conceptual frameworks of your own, to be able to re-organize facts or ideas in different and improved ways; (3) your capacity to marshal ideas and arguments on paper, in the form of a thesis; (4) your ability to communicate ideas, to discuss complex issues and contested viewpoints on issues, as developed through regular coursework seminars in which student preparation and participation is a central component. In each of the 2 Honours units, students participate in weekly seminars and complete essays totaling 9,000 words in length. In the Honours Dissertation, a 16,000 – 18,000 words long inquiry into a specific field, students are able to propose, develop and explore questions using their own initiative, skills, research and intellectual creativity, and with the advice, guidance and constructive critical input of an academic supervisor. Tackling the seminars, research essays and the dissertation provide the bases for learning 'how to do research', and the Honours year provides a marvelous opportunity to undertake research inquiry into topics you find significant and interesting. The skills in critical analysis, rigorous and clearly-written work, and spoken communication of ideas, which you can expand during this year, are important not only for higher level academic work but for

numerous kinds of jobs, activities and engagements in a world that both needs and values the strengths and capabilities an Honours degree stands for.

People who have these general skills usually have a greater degree of intellectual flexibility than others, are more adaptable, and are more capable of learning new materials and concepts. Also, in so far as they have learned to distinguish between what is supposed to happen and 'reality', or know more about the complexities of social and political life, they will have acquired a greater capacity for reasoned communications and judgments. There is no doubt that employers value people with more flexible, better-informed and more creative minds. There is a qualitative difference between (most) pass degrees and an Honours graduate. An Honours degree qualifies you for higher-level jobs and for a more interesting range of jobs, in research or communication, or administrative or critical spheres, in either the public or the private sector.

Structure

The Honours programs offered in the School of Political and Social Inquiry consist of:

1. **Two 12-point coursework units.**
2. **An Honours Thesis/Dissertation** (16,000 to 18,000 words; 24 points). Enrolled in two parts (A and B) each carrying 12 points of credit. Satisfactory completion of Part A is prerequisite to continuation of the thesis enrolment in Part B. Satisfactory completion of Part A is indicated by an Honours Thesis Interim Progress Report submitted by the supervisor at the end of the Part A enrolment (i.e. the end of the first semester's work toward a thesis).

Full-time Honours: Fourth year (Honours) is normally completed in one academic year or over two semesters. The coursework is either completed in one semester or over the entire year. The dissertation is normally researched and written throughout the year.

Part-time Honours: A candidate can enroll as a part-time student and complete the program over two years of study. The coursework is generally undertaken in the first year and the dissertation in the second year.

Combined Honours: It is possible for students to combine with another discipline at fourth year level and so take a combined Honours degree. Where this happens, the fourth year workload of forty-eight points is normally divided equally between the two disciplines involved. This usually requires some discussion and negotiation between the two disciplines. Students who are interested should therefore discuss their plan with their respective Honours Coordinators, preferably at an early stage.

To be eligible for a combined Honours degree, a student must have completed a major sequence in each discipline and have satisfied the particular requirements laid down by the Schools involved for third year work.

Double Honours: It is possible for students to undertake a full Honours program in two disciplines and will normally be undertaken over two years full-time study or four years part-time. To be eligible for a double Honours degree, a student must have completed a major sequence in each discipline and have satisfied the particular requirements laid down by the Schools involved for third year work.

Eligibility

Monash Students with completed degrees with majors in Anthropology, Behavioural Studies, Criminology, Politics, Sociology, and Gender Studies are eligible to apply to enter the respective fourth year Honours program provided:

you have obtained average grades of 70% or higher in the Honours discipline(s) to the value of 24 points at second and third year levels, 18 points of which must be at third year level.

Application Process

Fill out an application form, which is available from the Arts Undergraduate Coursework Office, Faculty of Arts, on the 1st floor of the Menzies Building, Monash Clayton Campus, or download from the Arts Faculty Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/current/coursework/honours/index.html/>

Attach an Academic History (which can be downloaded via MUSO) to your application.

Consult with the Honours Coordinator in your discipline/program who **must** sight your academic history, approve and sign the application before you submit it.

Submit your application to the Arts Faculty Undergraduate Office, or per instructions you get from the discipline Honours Coordinator of your program.

Scholarships

A small number of Faculty Award Honours Scholarships, to the value of approximately \$2,000 (HEC scholarships) and \$3,000 (stipend), are available each year. Details can be found the Faculty of Arts' scholarships page:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/current/honoursscholarships.html>

There is no need to apply formally for either of these scholarships; Faculty ranks candidates and awards scholarships on the basis of academic merit to both calendar and mid-year entry students.

Coursework

For details of units see the entries for the specific programs listed below.

Dissertation/Thesis

The dissertation is researched and written over the course of the year. It is written under the supervision of a member of staff whose responsibilities are to advise the student as to the form and content of the dissertation. While the dissertation is a full year project, it is formally enrolled in two parts, one per semester. The first part (first semester's work towards the thesis) is graded according to progress in the thesis as judged by the supervisor. Satisfactory Progress in Part A is prerequisite to confirmation of enrolment in Part B. Part B, the completed and submitted thesis, is assessed by two examiners each of whom writes a qualitative report that is returned to the student.

WebCT Vista Site on Dissertation/Thesis

There is a dedicated WebCT Vista site for all PSI Honours Students, which brings together various resources and provides several self-study modules designed to assist students throughout the Honours program. The modules include:

- Getting Started.
- Library & Research Skills.
- Developing Research Proposals.
- Structuring a dissertation.
- Drafting and writing issues.
- Procrastination and writing problems.
- Documentation and presentation.

Check with the coordinator of your Honours program for access details.

Supervisors

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact staff members at the time of application to discuss possible supervision of their dissertation area. While we will generally attempt to allocate supervisors on the basis of stated preference, it may not be possible in all cases due to the need to distribute supervision equitably among available staff members.

Examination

Each dissertation is examined by two examiners other than your supervisor. Examiners are generally from within the discipline, but may also be from other areas of the School, Faculty, other Faculties, or external to Monash University.

Past dissertations

Copies of past dissertations are available for perusal throughout the year. Contact the Honours Coordinator for each program for details.

Assessment

The Honours year final grade is obtained by adding the course work and dissertation results. Coursework is worth 50% of the year's assessable work; the dissertation accounts for the other 50%.

Honours are awarded in four classes:

HI First Class Honours (80% and over)

IIIA Second Class Honours, first division or 2A (70-79%)

IIIB Second Class Honours, second division or 2B (60-69%)

IIII Third Class Honours (50-59%)

Library Access

Honours students are eligible to obtain extended borrowing privileges. Contact your Honours Coordinator for the relevant form to take to the Circulation Desk in the Matheson Library.

Due dates

The deadline for the submission of final coursework is the last teaching day of the final semester of the Honours program. The deadline for the submission of the

dissertation is the same. Requests for extensions for coursework must be made in advance of the deadline. Extensions to the submission date for the dissertation may be granted in exceptional circumstances. The student's supervisor must support the request and the Discipline Honours Coordinator must approve the request.

Key Dates for Honours 2008/2009 (*for full-time candidates commencing Honours calendar 2008 and mid-year 2008*).

2008

25 February 1st semester coursework Honours units commence.

5 June 1st semester examinations commence.

14 July 2nd semester coursework Honours units commence.

Mid-year Honours entry candidates commence studies

17 October **Dissertation submission deadline for all full-time (calendar 2008 entry) Honours candidates.**

23 October 2nd semester examinations commence.

2009

2 March 1st semester coursework Honours units commence.

5 June **Dissertation submission deadline for all full-time (mid-year 2008 entry) Honours candidates.**

11 June 1st semester examinations commence.

Faculty of Arts Honours Information:

<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/current/coursework/honours/index.html/>

ANTHROPOLOGY

1. Coursework

(a) Compulsory Honours Seminar

ANY4300 Into the Field: The Theory and Practice of Ethnography (12 points. 1st Semester)

(b) One additional seminar (12 points. Semester 1 or 2)

ANY4100 Violences (2nd Semester)

The following units can be taken under the code **ANY4200**

Culture and Conflict in Indonesia (1st Semester)

The Third World (1st Semester)

Students may take the following units with permission from

THE CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES

AIS4010 Theories and Research Methodologies in Australian Indigenous Studies (1st Semester)

AIS4040 Interrogating Race and Power in Australian Indigenous Studies (2nd Semester)

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(to be taken under the code **GES4840** Directed Studies in Geography)

IDA4120 Community Development in a Globalising World (6 points - 1st Semester)

IDA4230 Research in Political Ecology (6 points - 1st Semester)

LINGUISTICS

(to be taken under the code **LIN4720** Special Topics In Linguistics)

LIN4030 Issues in Language Endangerment

POLITICS

PLT4449 Global Soul: Consumers, Citizens and Rebels (2nd Semester)

GENDER STUDIES

GND4010 Gender, Sexuality, Power (1st Semester)

2. Dissertation

ANY4380(A) Thesis in Anthropology Part A (12 points)

ANY4380(B) Thesis in Anthropology Part B (12 points)

Honours Coordinator

Dr. John Bradley – Email: John.Bradley@arts.monash.edu.au

Room W1028

Ph: 9905-2969

Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/anthropology/undergraduate/honours.html/>

BEHAVIOURAL STUDIES

1. Coursework

BHS4030 Researching Behaviour: Advanced Practice and Reporting
(12 points. 1st Semester.)

BHS4050 Behavioural Studies in the 21st Century: Issues and Paradigms
(12 points. 1st Semester.)

2. Dissertation

BHS4000 (A) Research project Part A (12 points)

BHS4000 (B) Research project Part B (12 points)

Honours Coordinators:

Dr Francesca Collins
Room H5.34, Caulfield campus
Phone: 9903 2471
Email: francesca.collins@arts.monash.edu.au

Dr RoseAnne Misajon
Room H4.33, Caulfield campus
Phone: 9903 4467
Email: roseanne.misajon@arts.monash.edu.au
Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/behaviour/>

Enrolments

Students wishing to enrol in Behavioural Studies Honours should lodge their applications with Ms Helen Edwards, Room B4.41, Caulfield Campus.

Phone: 9903 2676

CRIMINOLOGY

1. Coursework

Semester 1

CJC 4020 Researching Criminal Justice (12 points)

Semester 2

CJC4010 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (12 points)

2. Dissertation

CJC4000 (A) Criminal Justice Honours Thesis Part A (12 points)

CJC4000 (B) Criminal Justice Honours Thesis Part B (12 points)

Honours Coordinator

Dr. Dean Wilson - Email: Dean.Wilson@arts.monash.edu.au

Ph: 9905 2992

Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/criminology/>

POLITICS

1. Coursework

Two Honours seminars (*Semester 1 or 2*) from the following subjects, worth 12 points each.

Semester 1

PLT4399 Grand Theories of Politics
PLT4210 Leaders, Politics and Publics
PLT4299 China: The Quest for Modernisation
PLT4609 Strategic Studies: A Critical Introduction
PLT4349 Fringe Politics and Extremist Violence: An Introduction to Terrorism
PLM4930 South East Asian Politics (SB)

Semester 2

PLT4065 Advanced Seminar in International Political Economy
PLT4809 Australian National Government
PLT4449 Global Soul: Citizens, Consumers and Rebels
PLT4430 Political Islam
PLT4319 Wars of Recognition: Terrorism and Political Violence
INT4020 Civilising Global Politics
PLT4529 Perspectives on World Politics
ITM 4030 Ethics in World Politics
PLT 4420 Islam and Modernity
PLT4469 Conflict Resolution and Islam in the Middle East

2. Dissertation

PLT4049 (A) Politics Honours Thesis Part A (*12 points*)

PLT4049 (B) Politics Honours Thesis Part B (*12 points*)

Politics Honours Coordinator/s:

Until 23/11/2007; and from 1/7/2008:

Dr. Remy Davison – Email: Remy.Davison@arts.monash.edu.au

Room: W1105

Phone: 9905 9432

From 26/11/2007 – 30/6/2008

Acting Politics Honours Coordinator:

Dr. Narelle Miragliotta – Email: Narelle.Miragliotta@arts.monash.edu.au

Room W1129

Phone: 9905 2402

Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/politics/undergraduate/honours.html>

SOCIOLOGY

1. Coursework

(a) Compulsory Honours in Sociology Seminar:

SCY4540 Theory and Practice of Sociology

Dr Andrew Singleton

12 points + 2 hours per week + First semester + Clayton + Prohibition

Synopsis: A critical understanding of the research process, including the complex interplay between theory, methodology, data collection and data analysis; and recognition of the diversity of approaches to sociological research analysis. Students will develop the skills required to undertake an independent piece of research for the first time.

Assessment: Critical Review essay (2000 words): 20% + Class presentation: 20% + A final portfolio containing a literature review and methodological paper (5000 words): 60%

(b) Students are able to choose ONE additional unit from the following options. Each unit is worth 12 points:

Semester 1

- SYM4005: Qualitative Research Strategies (Caulfield eve)
- SYM4045: Analysing Quantitative Data (Caulfield eve)
- SYM4055: Data Analysis Software for Social Research (Caulfield eve)

Optional cross-listed units:

GND4010: Theorising Gender (Clayton)

Semester 2

- SYM4015: Secondary Analysis of Official Statistics (Caulfield eve)
- SYM4025: Survey Research (Caulfield eve)
- SYM4065: Issues in Public Policy (Caulfield eve)
- ASM4380: Women, Psychiatry and Madness (Clayton)

Optional cross-listed units:

GND4020: Feminist Research (Clayton)

ii) *Dissertation*

SCY4580A Honours Thesis in Sociology Part A (12 points)

SCY4580B Honours Thesis in Sociology Part B (12 points)

Synopsis: A dissertation for assessment by a panel of staff members. The thesis may be a theoretical analysis or an empirical study, though it should demonstrate the student's ability to relate 'evidence to argument'. Various types of empirical research can be considered, eg, case studies, unstructured interviews, small surveys and secondary analysis of data. All students have a staff supervisor.

Assessment: Written thesis (15,000-18,000 words): 100%

Sociology Honours Coordinator:

Dr Andrew Singleton - Email: Andrew.Singleton@arts.monash.edu.au

Room: W1123

Phone: 9905 5836

Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/sociology/undergraduate/honours.html>

GENDER STUDIES

The Honours program in Gender Studies is open to students who have completed a major in Gender Studies or a major in a different, related discipline. Students in the latter category should consult with the Director of the Centre regarding their eligibility.

1. Coursework

(a) Compulsory Honours Seminar

GND4010 Gender, Sexuality, Power (*12 points. 1st Semester*)

(b) One additional seminar worth 12 points selected from the following units in Gender Studies or from elsewhere in the School or Faculty:

GND4020 Feminist Research* (*2nd Semester*) (*If not completed at 3rd yr)

Elective Units at 4th Year from

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANY4300 Into the Field: The Theory and Practice of Ethnography

CENTRE FOR AIBORIGINAL AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES

AIS4040 Interrogating Race and Power in Australian Indigenous Studies

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES

CLS4100 Deleuze and Foucault

CLS4070 Lacan and Subjectivity

DRAMA

DTS4760 Gender, Body and Performance

ENGLISH

ENH4195 Legal Fictions: bodies, image, discourse

ENH4210 Writing the Child

ENH4250 Gothic Revivals

ENH4270 Feminist Poetics

HISTORY

HSY4810 History, biography and autobiography

HSY4760 Gender and history

POLITICS

PLT4349 Fringe Politics and Extremist Violence: an Introduction to Terrorism

SOCIOLOGY

SCY4540 Theory and Practice of Sociology

STUDIES IN RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

RLT4110 Ecology, Gender and the Sacred
RLT4400 Medieval Women and Their World

VISUAL ARTS

VSA4830 Exploration and Immigration in the Cultural Imaginary
VSA4009 Gender and Genre: Masculinity in Film

2. Dissertation

GND4005 (A) Honours Dissertation in Gender Studies Part A (*12 points*)

GND4005 (B) Honours Dissertation in Gender Studies Part B (*12 points*)

Honours Coordinator

Dr. Ann Vickery - Email: ann.vickery@arts.monash.edu.au

Room: W1143

Phone: 9905 9137

Website: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ws/>

PSI staff and their fields of interest

Anthropology

- Dr. John Bradley Ethno Ecology; Music and Landscape; Memory and Religion.
- Dr. Penny Graham Anthropology of Southeast Asia; Ritual, religion and conversion; Asian labour migration; Nationalism, ethnicity and the state; orality and literacy.
- Dr. Brett Hough The performing arts of Bali and Java; ethnographic film-making; conflict and violence.
- Dr. Matt Tomlinson Religion, language, and performance in Oceania.

Behavioural Studies

- Dr. Francesca Collins Health psychology; Trauma reactions; Dissociative disorders; Women's hair loss; Hair loss and stress; Hair loss and the psychological effects; Psychology of medical treatment compliance; Dissociation.
- Dr. Peter Kelly Globalisation; AFL football; Sport and leisure; Work-life balance; workplace change; youth identities; youth transitions; youth studies; AFL players.
- Dr. RoseAnne Misajon Wellbeing of people with disability and chronic illness; quality of life and quality of life measures, incl. in different cultural settings; migration, coping and social support
- Mr. Luke Howie Terrorism; impact of terrorism on business; terrorism threat Perceptions; counterterrorism; Australian homeland security critical infrastructure protection; terrorism; protecting major events.

Criminology

- Dr. Bree Carlton The uses and politics of maximum-security and supermax prisons; political imprisonment; institutional dynamics of disciplinary power and prisoner resistance; race, gender, resistance and differential systems of punishment; human rights and deaths in custody; official discourse and public inquiries.
- Dr Anna Eriksson Restorative Justice; Transitional Justice; Crime Prevention in High Crime Communities; Cultures of Violence; Social control in post-conflict societies.
- Associate Professor
Jude McCulloch Police shootings, crime and the media, women and policing, family violence, policing dissent, paramilitary policing, counter-terrorism, globalization and the 'war on terror'.

- Associate Professor
Sharon Pickering Refugees, borders and justice; Policing, terrorism and security; human rights and state crime; Gender persecution.
- Dr. Danielle Tyson Legal responses to intimate partner homicide; Crime and the media; Gender, masculinities and crime; Violence against women; Law and Literature; Theories of narrative and representation.
- Dr. Dean Wilson Surveillance and social control; Crime Prevention; Cultures and histories of policing; Street-level Policing; Policing; Victims of Crime; Crime and the media.

Politics

- Associate Professor
Shahram Akbarzadeh Islam and Muslim minorities in Australia; political Islam; Middle-Eastern politics; Islam in Central Asia.
- Prof. Greg Barton Indonesian social movements, politics and religion; Islamic thought; Islam in Turkey.
- Associate Professor
Susan Blackburn Indonesian history and politics; the Indonesian women's movement; foreign aid.
- Dr. Andrew Butfoy The evolving political, strategic and conceptual framework for arms control; the role of nuclear weapons in international relations; and the relationship between US power and world order.
- Dr. Rémy Davison International relations theory; foreign policies of the major powers; international security; international political economy; European Union economics; the government and politics of the EU.
- Dr. Nick Economou Australian politics, with particular emphasis on the politics of Australian environmentalism, the politics of federal and state elections and the politics of Australian public policy-making.
- Dr. Michael Janover Political theory; the symbolic and cultural frameworks in which political ideas and images are developed; ideas drawn from morality, art and science. and political thinking and action.
- Dr. Pete Lentini Contemporary Russian and post-Soviet politics, the politics of extremism, terrorism and political violence, and identity and media politics.
- Dr. Terry McDonald Non-government organizations; civil society actors; ethics and international relations.
- Dr. Narelle Miragliotta Australia politics (including Western Australian politics); elections and electoral systems; Green parties; and the politics of the Australian media.

- Dr. Paul Muldoon Modern political theory, with particular reference to questions of democracy and citizenship, nationalism, the politics of identity, globalisation, feminist and post-colonial critiques of modernity and the issue of historical injustice.
- Dr. Paul Strangio 20th-century Australian political and social history, with a political emphasis on Labor Party politics; political biography; Victorian state politics, public policy; and social movements and community activism.
- Prof. James Walter Australian politics, history, biography and culture; Australian studies, biographical methods, foreign policy and urban development.
- Dr. Dennis Woodward Chinese and Australian politics; Chinese political economy and the role of China's People's Liberation Army; Australian political economy; and Australian party and electoral politics.
- Associate Professor
David Wright-Neville The relationship between globalisation and political violence, especially in Southeast Asia and the Indian sub-continent. Related areas of research interest include the political psychology of violence, Western and non-Western counter-terrorism policies, and the role of intelligence in countering terrorism.

Sociology

- Dr Dharma Arunachalam Australian population change including fertility, marriage, divorce, labour force participation, migration and health.
- Dr Bob Birrell Integration of Australia's ethnic minorities; Australia's changing family and fertility situation; population growth and urban planning issues.
- Associate Professor
Denise Cuthbert Migration, diaspora, identity and culture: Aboriginal and settler relations in Australia (also Canada, NZ); gender; family; and adoption.
- Dr Mark Davis Sociology of health and medicine, HIV treatment and prevention, sexualities, cybercultures.
- Dr Jo Lindsay Gender relations, family diversity, sexuality, health, inequality and young people.
- Dr Kirsten McLean Bisexuality; gay and lesbian issues; sexuality theory; qualitative research; information communication technologies (ICT) and social space.
- Dr Andrew Singleton Gender studies, religion, spirituality, men and masculinity, family.

Dr Jan van Bommel The feminisms; female subjectivities and politics; women, psychiatry and madness and qualitative research methodologies.

Associate Professor

Naomi White Youth and children's issues, education, the family, ethnicity and the Holocaust.

Gender Studies

Dr Steven Angelides History and theory of genders and sexualities; poststructuralism and deconstruction; feminist and queer theories; and psychoanalytic theories of gender, sexuality and subjectivity; historical and contemporary constructions of child sexuality and sexual abuse.

Dr Sharon Bickle Feminist and queer literary studies with a particular concern for women's poetry; biography, autobiography and life-writing; the politics of the "gendered" archive; and scholarly editing; "Michael Field".

Associate Professor

Maryanne Dever Feminist literary and cultural studies, with a particular focus on Australian women's writing and critical engagements with literary archives; feminist pedagogy; the history and development of Gender Studies; gender equity matters; fertility decision-making.

Dr Suzanne Fraser The relationships between ideas of the body, gender, intoxication and compulsion, and bodily modification and enhancement; political aspects of health and disease, including illicit drug use and Hepatitis C prevention.

Dr JaneMaree Maher Work/family balance and women's mothering and work; pregnancy and birth and fertility decision-making.

Dr Ann Vickery Feminist literary and cultural studies, modernism, postmodernism, canon and community formations, Australian literature, American literature, and theories of influence and affiliation.