DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH HONORS
Information for Prospective Students
Spring 2013

The English Department offers its outstanding students the opportunity to pursue Department Honors through advanced study and close faculty mentorship in major courses.

Requirements for Earning English Honors

(1) Maintain a 3.5 grade point average in both major work and support work as well as a 3.25 overall grade point average. Grade point average requirements apply to both transfer and courses taken at UTSA.

(2) Take and successfully complete three Honors-designated English classes with a grade of B or better.

(3) Before graduating, submit for approval from the Department Scholarship and Honors Committee a portfolio containing (a) three substantial papers (totaling a minimum of 25 pages) and (b) a critical statement (5 to 8 pages).

Designating Courses as Honors

Students must successfully complete three (3) upper-division English classes with an Honors designation. Any upper-division English class may be designated as Honors pending student petition and approval of the individual instructor. Honors designations involve additional coursework, most commonly a paper or research project not included on the syllabus or additions to an existing paper, and faculty mentoring.

To initiate an Honors designation, a student should approach his/her instructor within the first two weeks of the semester to indicate interest in pursuing Honors. After an individualized agreement on mentoring and coursework is reached, the instructor and student should complete a “Contract to Earn Honors Credit in an English Course” and file it with Peggy Garner in the English Department office.

To earn the Honors designation, all contract work must be submitted by the last day of class or by the deadlines set by the instructor, and a grade of “B” or better must be received.

Critical Portfolio Guidelines

After completing three Honors-Designated courses and prior to graduating, the student must compile and submit a Critical Portfolio containing (a) three substantial papers totaling a minimum of 25 pages and (b) a critical statement of 5 to 8 pages.

The substantial papers, at least two of which must be written for Honors-designated English courses, may be revised and edited for submission.

The critical statement should offer a rationale for the choice of papers included in the portfolio.
and critically reflect upon the contributions that the papers make to the student’s goals as an English major seeking Honors.

Some possible questions to consider addressing in the critical statement:
- What is significant about each of the included papers individually?
- How does each paper contribute uniquely to the portfolio? Do the papers describe a trajectory of learning or development?
- How will earning English Honors benefit your continuing education?
- What are your goals for research going forward, and how has the path to seeking Honors contributed to those goals?

Both the substantial papers and critical statement will be evaluated in terms of research, analysis, eloquence, and command of subject.

**Critical Portfolio Deadlines and Submission Instructions**

Critical portfolios should be submitted electronically to Dr. Crystal Colombini, Honors Coordinator, at Crystal.Colombini@utsa.edu on or before the due date indicated below. Portfolios should be sent as a single, combined PDF document with the critical statement appearing first, followed by the three substantial papers appearing in the order of your choice. All papers should be clean copies; no instructor feedback or evaluative remarks should be included. Please be sure the email includes an appropriate subject line.

**Deadline for Spring 2013: Friday, April 5th**