ENGLISH HONORS SENIOR PROJECT

ENG or ENW 481 (3 credits) and ENG/ENW 482 (1 credit): TUTORIAL and COLLOQUIUM

ENG or ENW 481, the English Honors Tutorial, and ENG/ENW 482, the English Honors Colloquium, are offered concurrently each Fall Term. The pair of courses has two main components:

**Tutorial (3 credits).** English Honors seniors work with a faculty mentor to develop a major independent project suitable to their chosen specialty (i.e., literature, creative writing, professional writing, or education). You should plan to meet weekly in person with your faculty mentor as you develop, write, and revise your project.

**Colloquium (1 credit).** English Honors seniors meet as a group with the EHP director once every one or two weeks in Carman 301, Thursdays 3:30-5:00. This colloquium complements your tutorial work: you will follow a common project-calendar, present your work-in-progress to your peers and provide feedback on peers’ work, and explore opportunities to discuss graduate school, writing competitions, scholarships, etc.

Students must complete both the EHP Tutorial and Colloquium as part of their requirements as an English Honors major. English Honors majors should be enrolled in the English Honors Program by the Spring Term just prior to the Fall Term in which they will take ENG/ENW 481 and 482.

**Requirements for the English Honors Tutorial and Colloquium:**

**Mentor.** The English Honors Project should be written under the supervision of a full-time faculty member of the Lehman College English Department, not an adjunct faculty member. Interdisciplinary projects may involve a full-time faculty advisor from another Lehman College department, with permission of the EHP director and the English Department chair. Contact the EHP director if you need help finding a faculty mentor whose interests and schedule coincide with your own.

**Tutorial.** Students should take ENG or ENW 481 in the Fall Term prior to the calendar year in which they plan to graduate. (For example, if you plan to graduate any time in 2014, you should take ENG or ENW 481 in Fall 2013.) With the assistance of the EHP director, set up your ENG or ENW 481 tutorial during Spring Registration:

- Find a mentor and decide on a preliminary project
- Get a tutorial form from CA302: get signatures from your mentor, the EHP director, and the English Chair, then file the form with the Department. The Department will notify you when you have permission to register.
- Register for ENG or ENW 481. Also register for ENG 482.
- Using the EHP’s “Summer Contract” form, develop a summer reading list and reporting schedule with your mentor. Fill out the form completely and return it to the EHP directly before the last day of Spring classes.

Do as much primary (and secondary) reading as you can during the summer before your tutorial. The wider and deeper you read then, the easier and more rewarding your work will be in the fall. It’s perfectly OK to read widely in a general area over the summer in order to find a specialization; conversely, it’s perfectly OK to dig deep into a specialization over the summer! Just READ—and take plot-notes for later reference. As the Summer Contract indicates, you are expected to report informally to your mentor on your reading during the summer.

ENG or ENW 481 students attend weekly individual tutorial meetings with their mentors, beginning the first week of classes. Your mentor will guide you as you research, draft, revise, and edit your English Honors Project. Your tutorial is your English Honors Project home: the reading, discussing, and writing you do with your mentor constitute the core of your senior project experience.

Under exceptional circumstances, an EHP student may choose a year-long English Honors Senior Project instead of the traditional one-semester project. If this option compels you, speak to the EHP director prior to registering for ENG or ENW 481.

**Colloquium.** Once fall classes begin, senior Honors students attend a colloquium (ENG/ENW 482) led by the EHP director. The colloquium complements your tutorial work: it enables you to stay on top of your project-calendar, share your work-in-progress and provide peer-feedback, and attend presentations on graduate schools, writing contests, and fellowships with other EHP seniors.

Each meeting of the colloquium corresponds to a project-deadline. You and your faculty mentor will adjust what is due for each deadline to suit your particular project, but you should be prepared to share appropriate completed work with the colloquium according to the following rough schedule:

- Informal project proposal
- Library session
- Review of relevant critical and/or theoretical and/or creative/professional/pedagogical materials
- Full project prospectus, consisting of one or two pages of detailed description plus an annotated bibliography of primary and (if relevant) secondary works
• Major raw analysis of key primary texts, major imitative or experimental creative exercises, or major report on assembled primary materials and possible pedagogical rubrics, etc.
• Draft writing (I)
• Group-editing: fundamentals of critical, creative, professional, and/or curricular writing
• Draft writing (II)
• Peer-editing: editing for critical, creative, professional, and/or curricular writing
• Working introduction; Works Cited page; Acknowledgements page; abstract
• Revised draft; proofreading boot-camp
• Final polished and error-free project (submitted with mentor approval).

Colloquium members should be prepared to present their work-in-progress to the group, as well as to respond critically to their peers’ work. Details about submitting, presenting, and critiquing work are discussed when the colloquium first meets in the fall. All projects are due the last day of Fall classes.

Communications. Stay in regular contact with both your mentor and the EHP director. Failure to stay in touch about your senior project in particular and your standing in the English Honors major in general may jeopardize your status in the EHP. (Remember that EHP students MUST maintain a 3.2+ College GPA and a 3.5+ English GPA.) You are expected to check your designated email daily and to check the ENG/ENW 482 BlackBoard weekly (in preparation for colloquium meetings).

Project content, scope, and style. ENG/ENW 481/482 work may not overlap with regular course-work or course-related writing, though it may be inspired by something you read or wrote previously. EHP students who are also Lehman Scholars and/or Macaulay Honors College students are equally bound not to overlap their ENG/ENW 481/482 work with regular course-work, but they may use their English Honors Project to satisfy the honors-project requirement of both the English Department and their College Honors program, with the approval of Professor Schwartz. All students are expected to produce projects within their chosen English specializations—Literature and English/ECCE students write critical essays; Creative Writing and Professional Writing students produce creative or professional writing within a genre agreed upon with their 481 mentors.

English Honors Projects should involve topics that are intensive or extensive enough to require roughly 20-30 pages of writing:
• Critical essays on literary texts and topics should show confident awareness of relevant secondary criticism. A literary essay should be able to place its original and complex argument about primary materials within the larger context of theoretical debates about authors, texts, and relevant social, cultural, or historical perspectives or issues.
• Projects devoted to professional or creative writing should have a central focus or organizing principle, though a project in these fields may consist of several distinct parts, such as a portfolio of poems or a collection of stories or essays. Keep in mind that all poems, stories, or essays must be written exclusively for the ENW 481 tutorial, not compiled from other projects or courses.

Students writing critical essays should use the latest edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers for questions about writing, revising, editing, usage, and formatting. Students who do professional writing should use the Associated Press Style Guide.

Project submission. After mentors have received, read, and signed off on English Honors Projects, students should submit two electronic copies of their work to the EHP director, using MS WORD and identifying themselves and their projects in the email message. One copy should be entirely anonymous: no mention of student or mentor on title-page or any other page. One copy should identify author and mentor on the title page; students may include their last name next to the page-number within this second manuscript.

Project evaluation. Two faculty readers read and evaluate each English Honors Senior Project. Readers’ evaluations determine the level of honors to be awarded for the project (e.g., highest honors, high honors, honors, credit, or no credit). When your project has been read, evaluated, and assigned an honors-designation, you will be sent your project and readers’ reports.

Departmental Honors. Your final honors designation upon graduation is a function of three things:
• Your ENG/ENW 481/482 grades
• Faculty readers’ evaluations of your English Honors Project
• Your final English GPA (in 300/400-level courses).

Graduating students receiving English Honors will be recognized at the English Awards Ceremony in April/May and during graduation in May/June.

Lehman College identifies you as an English Honors student on your transcript, but does not list departmental honors. After graduation, you may identify your status in the education section of your resume as follows:

John or Jane Doe
Lehman College / City University of New York (2010-2014)
B.A., magna cum laude with high honors in English, 2014