

UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE COURSE CONTRACT

Semester _____

NAME _____ ID# _____ E-MAIL _____

CLASSIFICATION _____ CURRICULUM _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

AUBURN ADDRESS _____ Apt. # _____ ZIP _____

COURSE # _____ COURSE TITLE _____ CREDIT HOURS _____

PROFESSOR _____ DEPARTMENT _____

PROFESSOR CAMPUS ADDRESS _____

Course applies to: Junior Honors Certificate _____ Senior Honors Certificate _____
(You must have notified the Honors Office **before** the first class day.)

1. Why are you taking this course on a contract basis?

2. Describe the Honors component of the course, discussing the nature of the project, how this project constitutes "Honors," and the nature of the "consolidating experience" (see reverse side). Be as specific as possible in describing what you will do, including references to specific readings and/or methodologies where appropriate, lengths of required papers or reports, number and nature of presentations, etc. Research papers are typically 8-10 double spaced pages but certain other projects may include a shorter report. See the instructions and explain if yours is to be shorter or significantly longer.

3. How does the Honors component differ from normal course expectations? Will the Honors component substitute for a regular course requirement? (You may attach the regular course syllabus to illustrate).

Signatures:

English Program Coordinator* _____ Date _____

Student _____ Date _____

Professor _____ Date _____

Director, University Honors College _____ Date _____

***Only for English core and 400-level writing courses. Signature must be obtained before mid-semester of the previous semester.**

>>>> UPON STUDENT'S COMPLETION OF CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS PLEASE RETURN THIS BOTTOM PORTION TO <<<<

THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE, RBD LIBRARY

This is to certify that _____ has completed the contract requirements for
(name of student)

_____. Signed: _____ Date: _____
(course name, number, and credit hours) (Professor)

Auburn University Honors College

Contracting for Honors Credit

Course contracts enable students to earn Honors credit by incorporating an Honors component within a regularly offered class. Honors contract courses ideally require something *qualitatively different* rather than something *quantitatively more*. Enhanced substitutions for the normal course requirements are preferable to more of the same. The component should be designed to incorporate a “consolidating experience,” a written paper or report—possibly including a class presentation—that serves to bring the experience together. Where longer papers, additional reports, etc., are called for, the added work should be designed to fulfill a larger learning objective. Teaching one or more classes and doing special research projects (especially in the science fields) have been especially beneficial. Wherever possible, Honors students should share the results of their work with the class in the form of an oral presentation, a poster session, or some other means. Other suggestions are detailed below.

1. Where the course calls for a research paper, an Honors paper might use primary sources, incorporate a substantial literature review that connects the topic to the broader issues in the field, include primary data derived from student research (oral histories or other interviews, statistical analysis, laboratory experimentation), etc. Honors research papers are **typically 8-10 double-spaced pages**. If yours is shorter, explain why.
2. Where additional readings or reports are indicated, it is best that these readings or reports be synthesized as part of a larger Honors component. For example, an essay involving a comparison/contrast of regularly assigned readings with the specially selected seminal readings would be appropriate.
3. The Honors component might include a substantial programming project or extended fieldwork or laboratory experience, concluding with a final report of at least 8-10 double-spaced pages, including a narrative part of at least 5-7 pages, outlining the experience and the conclusions reached or experience gained.
4. Where teaching one or more classes is indicated, it is best for the teacher to provide guidance in organization and content to insure that the material enhances and supports the intention of the class. This contract option provides a wonderful opportunity for the Honors students to “test their wings” and develop their skills in public speaking and in teaching. In this case, the written component would typically consist of a report of 5-7 pages on the topics covered in the lectures.

Contracting for Junior Honors Credit

Students are expected to enroll in Honors sections of the core courses when these courses are regularly offered, since the group experience that characterizes the Honors Core Courses is preferable to the contract approach in the beginning years. In special circumstances, taking an Honors Core Course may not be possible and contracting may be the only route to meet the student’s overall academic objectives. In these cases, the student must inform the Honors office of the special circumstances **before the first day of class**. No more than two classes may normally be applied toward the Junior Honors certificate.

Contracting for Senior Honors Credit

Upper division requirements vary, based on whether the student chooses the thesis or non-thesis option. In either case, all upper level students are required to take contract courses, 300-level or above, in their major.

Getting your Honors Contract Approved

To earn Honors credit for an English core or upper-level writing course, you must first obtain the signature of the English Department Program Coordinator for the course you are taking **before mid-semester** of the preceding semester. Then continue with the following steps, which apply for all Honors Contracts.

Step 1: Discuss your idea with the professor for the course. This step should ideally be undertaken during the semester prior to enrollment, as you are developing your course schedule for the next semester. If not, begin discussions with your teacher **during the first week of the class**. If you seek Junior Honors Credit, you must have already informed the Honors office, as explained above.

Step 2: Following your initial discussion, formalize your ideas by completing the Course Contract on the other side of this form. Students should take responsibility for writing the terms of the contract agreement with the professor. The professor’s signature indicates his or her endorsement of the contract.

Step 3: **By the end of the second week of class, deliver your signed contract, including the regular syllabus for the course, to the University Honors College office.** It is to your advantage to complete this step as soon as possible (perhaps even during the prior semester), since you may be required to make revisions in the contract. Contracts that appear to be last minute efforts to gain Honors credit, rather than well-conceived Honors plans, will not be well received. Late contracts will be considered only under truly exceptional circumstances.

Step 4: The Honors Director makes his recommendations no later than the end of the third week of classes. Copies of approved contracts are forwarded to students and professors. Contracts that must be revised are returned to the student with suggestions from the Director.