School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
2020

CVEN4951/4952/4953 RESEARCH THESIS A/B/C For students who commence Research Thesis A in 2020

COURSE DETAILS

Units of Credit 4 + 4 + 4

Contact hours as agreed with supervisor

Course Coordinators

Terms 1 & 2:
Professor Ian Turner
email: ian.turner@unsw.edu.au
office: CE302 in Civil and Environmental Engineering Building

Term 3:
Dr
email: d.oshea@unsw.edu.au
office: CE213 in Civil and Environmental Engineering Building

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is in three parts. Research Thesis A is undertaken in the first term of enrolment. Research Thesis A is a prerequisite for Research Thesis B, which in turn is a prerequisite for Research Thesis C.

By default, students must ordinarily take Research Thesis A, B and C in three consecutive terms.

With School permission, students may request to take Research Thesis A in one term then Research B + C concurrently in the following term. This option is strictly limited only to students who can demonstrate the ability to progress. Further details are provided in the ASSESSMENT section below.

Students may enrol in up to and including 20 UoC while undertaking Research Thesis without being considered as overloading. Students who enrol in 22 UoC or more while undertaking Thesis are considered to be overloading and will require permission to do so.

By default, students cannot undertake Industrial Training while enrolled in Research Thesis B unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated by the student and accepted by the School.

Find more information about the structure of the Research Thesis on the School website here.

That depends quite a bit on your field of study. However, all honours theses have at least two things in common:

- They are based on students' original research.
- They take the form of a written report, which presents the findings of that research.

WHY WRITE AN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS?

- ***Satisfy your intellectual curiosity***
  This is the most compelling reason to write a research thesis. You have studied courses during your degree that perhaps really piqued your interest. Now's your chance to follow your passions, explore further, and contribute some original ideas and research in your field.

- ***Develop transferable research skills***
  Whether you choose to pursue further research (e.g. complete a Ph.D) or not, the process of developing and crafting a feasible research project will polish skills that will serve you well in almost any future job. After all, most jobs require some form of problem solving and oral and written communication. Writing an honours thesis requires that you:

  - ask smart questions
  - acquire the investigative instincts needed to find answers
  - navigate libraries, laboratories, archives, databases, and other research venues
  - develop the flexibility to redirect your research if your initial plan flops
  - master the art of time management
  - sharpen your argumentation skills
  - organize a lengthy piece of writing
  - polish your oral communication skills by presenting and defending your research

SUPERVISION

- There are no specific hours assigned to this course, except for the scheduled Lunchtime Workshops (see below).
- Meetings between the supervisor(s) and the student may take place periodically or by private arrangement.
- Should supervisors be on study leave or unavailable for a considerable period of the session, alternative arrangements need to be established and made known to both the student and course coordinator.

SUMMARY OF ALL RESEARCH THESIS MARKED ASSESSMENTS

Research Thesis A:			
1.	Component A1	Week 7	**satisfactory/unsatisfactory**
2.	Component A2	Week 10	**10 % of Final Mark**
Research Thesis B:			
1.	Component B1	Week 8 (B+C: Week 3)	**5 % of Final Mark**
Research Thesis C:			
1.	Abstract	Week 7	**5 % of Final Mark**
2.	Research Seminar/Video Presentation	Week 10	**10 % of Final Mark**
3.	Thesis Submission	Week 11	**70 % of Final Mark (incl. 10 % Supervisor)**

Further details of the requirements for the Abstract and Presentation will be advised by the Course Coordinator during the term.

The Research Thesis is to be submitted electronically as a single pdf by 4.00pm on Friday of the submission week

Fail in Thesis B & C (when taken simultaneously) Students must re-enrol in Thesis B again, and cannot concurrently enrol in C. They can then take Thesis C when Thesis B has been satisfactorily completed

Late Procedure

9		Expand on literature review and prepare draft project skeleton. Consult on your proposed Research Methodology with supervisor.	
10	Submit Component A2 more detailed, revised and improved Introduction (Statement of Problem) & Literature Review. If seeking to apply for permission to enrol concurrently in Research Thesis B + C next Term, refer to the Course Profile for further information on the additional content for A2 that is required, and the online application process.	Agree on your proposed Research Methodology with supervisor.	***Component A2 Due submit to your supervisor by 4pm Friday***

HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS C COURSE PROGRAM

Week	***Milestones***	***Suggested Activities***	***Assessments***
1			