School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Term 2, 2020

CVEN4953
RESEARCH THESIS C

COURSE DETAILS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

THIS COURSE PROFILE SHOULD ONLY BE REFERRED TO BY STUDENTS WHO HAVE ALREADY SUCCESFULLY COMPLETED CVEN4951 AND 4952 AND IN TERM 2 2020 ARE ENROLLED IN CVEN4953.

PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS A (CVEN4951) OR HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS B (CVEN4952) IN TERM 2 2020 SHOULD REFER TO THE ALTERNATIVE COURSE PROFILE THAT IS AVABILE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND IN MOODLE.

Where can I find more information?

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

HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION

The thesis may describe directed laboratory, investigatory, design, field or research work on an approved subject and will be completed under the guidance and supervision of a member of the .

Online Handbook description is available at MyUNSW:

www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2020/CVEN4953.html

OBJECTIVES

The Honours Research Thesis is an individual project in which each student works under the guidance of a nominated member of the academic staff (supervisor). A co-supervisor may also be nominated depending on the set up of the project. The research may involve laboratory experiments, field or industry-based investigations, design applications or theoretical research.

The Honours Research Thesis aims to provide students with the opportunity to:

- Undertake and execute an academic research project;

- Produce a self-contained research thesis, which may be understood and used by others with technical background knowledge in the same discipline area as the thesis topic, and may potentially be suitable for publication;
- Present their research in a seminar.

WHAT IS AN HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS?

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 to academic staff and students

- ***Work closely with academic staff***
  At large research universities like UNSW, you have likely taken classes where you barely got to know your lecturer. Writing a thesis offers the opportunity to work one-on-one with an academic supervisor. Such relationships can enrich your intellectual development and later serve as invaluable references for postgraduate degree and employment.

- ***Open windows into future professions***
  An honours research thesis will give you a taste of what it's like to do research in your field. It also might help you decide whether to pursue that field in your future career.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The Honours Research Thesis is an individual project in which each student works under the guidance of a nominated member of the academic staff (supervisor). One or more co-supervisors (including from outside the School) may also be nominated depending on the set up of the project. The research may involve laboratory experiments, field or industry-based investigations, design applications or theoretical investigation.

PRIVATE STUDY

- As a rough guide only, an average student would be expected to spend approximately 10 hours per week on work related to this course.
- More guidance is needed initially from the supervisor when the topic is being defined to establish the objectives and methodology of the thesis.

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.
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13. *Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour.*
14. *Professional use and management of information.*
15. *Orderly management of self, and professional conduct.*
16. *Effective team membership and team leadership.*

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU REGULARLY CHECK YOUR OFFICAL UNSW EMAIL FOR UPDATES, REMINDERS, ETC.

ASSESSMENT – KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

normal, students can also apply through myUNSW for special consideration.

- For all other assignments beside thesis zero (0) mark is awarded
- For thesis 5 marks off the *thesis* for every day late. Penalty applies until the marks for the *course* decrease to 50, and further lateness does not result in failure of the *course*, but might be a failure of the thesis (weekends count as days).
- Any thesis not turned in within 6 weeks after the deadline will be finalised at zero (0) marks.

RELEVANT RESOURCES

Honours Thesis Writing for Engineering Students: https://student.unsw.edu.au/honours-thesis-writing-engineering-and-science-students
Online iWrite thesis writing tutorial: http://iwrite.sydney.edu.au/tutorials/start/starthere.htm

- Topic material as direct by the supervisor.
- Materials provided by course coordinator.

References on writing style and technical communication skill:

- nd ed. Longman, 1995
- nd ed. McGraw-Hill, 1992.
- rd ed. Faculty of Engineering, Flex1860508.7 Tm0 gW*nQEMC /Span <</MCID 17/Lang (en-AU)>>BDC q0.000008866 0 595 841 reW*nBT

HONOURS RESEARCH THESIS C COURSE PROGRAM

Week	***Milestones***	***Suggested Activities***	***Assessments***
1		Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data.	
2		Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse dat.	
3	Complete remaining research work.	Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data.	
4	Complete analysis of results.	Complete remaining thesis research with Supervisor(s) guidance. Analyse data. Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
5		Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
6	Prepare draft of Seminar Abstract	Work on thesis with Supervisor(s) guidance.	
7	Receive supervisor feedback on		