



COURSE DETAILS

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| Units of Credit | 12 + 12 |
| Contact hours | as agreed with supervisor |
| Course Coordinators | Term 1: Professor Ian Turner email: ian.turner@unsw.edu.au office: CE302 in Civil and Environmental Engineering Building |
| | Term 3: Dr Daniel O'Shea email: d.oshea@unsw.edu.au office: CE213 in Civil and Environmental Engineering Building |

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

This course is in two parts. CVEN4032 covers Part A in Term 1, which is a prerequisite for CVEN4033 Part B in Term 3.

The purpose of the Higher Honours Research Thesis courses CVEN4032 and CVEN4033 are to engage the participation of top-performing students with current and leading-edge research activities across the School. Together, the courses promote higher level independence in learning to prepare students for their professional and/or research careers; with a particular emphasis on the development of research, writing and presentation skills that would assist their participation in further (postgraduate) research and for a career in industry.

Prerequisite:

This course is differentiated from the 6+6 units of credit Honours Research Thesis courses by the substantial additional requirements of:

CVEN4032

- extended review of literature and project report
- 'in progress' research presentation
- An additional level of rigor to the assessment procedure (refer below)

CVEN4033

- an extended research thesis (approx. 30,000 equivalence)
- Completion of a submission ready research paper to an international journal standard.
- Professional presentation within the school seminar program to full School audience.

The unique learning outcomes from these courses are in promotion of higher level independence in learning, above that of Honours Research T4o5 (T)den.335 0 Td(P)36p & B

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 School's academic staff.

Online Handbook description is available at MyUNSW:

www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2020/CVEN4032.html

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PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF A RESEARCH THESIS TOPIC

Your priority is to find a Supervisor and agree on a topic BEFORE ENROLLING in Higher Honours A.

- Browse online the selection of available topics and identify potential supervisors

- 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 PhD) 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.

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| TEACHING STRATEGIES |
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The Higher Honours Research Thesis is an individual project in which each student works under the guidance of a nominated member of the School's academic staff (supervisor). A co-supervisor (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 20+ hours per week on work

- There are no specific hours assigned to this course, except for the scheduled 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
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