

Honors Contract Faculty FAQ

- **What is an Honors Contract?**
 - The Honors contract is designed to help the student fulfill the Honors credit hours required by the Honors College. This project, or course of study, is meant to enhance the student's overall class experience and to provide an opportunity for research/study on a topic which falls outside of the regular course parameters. Any course may be contracted.
 - The Honors College requires 18 hours of Honors designated coursework, and fulfilling a contract is one way to achieve Honors credit for a course.
- **What do I need to do?**
 - Your student should come to you with an idea for a project or area for research. You can decide on the nature of the completed project (see below) during a preliminary discussion with the student. You will then complete a Contract Proposal Form. **Students must upload these forms to the Honors Blackboard by the 5th class day.**
 - You and the student should make plans to meet twice per month so that you can both gauge the progress on the project. This meeting can be face-to-face, via Zoom, or via email.
 - You will complete a Contract Certification form provided by the student at the end of the semester. **Students must upload these forms to the Honors Blackboard by the day grades are due.**
- **Does the student get a grade for the contract?**
 - No, but in order for the student to earn Honors credit for the course, the student must earn an A or B in the course itself. The work on the contract should not affect the grade in the course.
 - At the end of the semester, you will assess the student's overall experience with the project on the Contract Certification form.
- **What sort of project is appropriate?**
 - This contracted project may take any form that you and the student choose; it should be interesting for both of you and provide an enhanced study opportunity for the student: creating a focused bibliography of sources for the class, teaching a class on a specific topic, performing outside research on a designated topic to present to the class, creating an original composition/artistic presentation, or designing course or website documents. Really, there is no template for the resulting project, but it must result in an outcome/deliverable of some sort.
 - That said, see the list of a small sample of contract projects, below.
- **How many extra hours should this project take?**
 - The time spent on the project depends on the nature of the project. It should not overwhelm the student as if it were another course. The project is meant to be an additional project completed over the course of the semester, so that the student can work towards a critical appreciation of the topic at hand.
 - For instance, if the student will research and compile a list of secondary sources for class distribution, it might be that one extra hour a week may be spent on the computer or in the library gathering information. If the student is to teach a class, then maybe fewer hours would be needed to perform research and compose a lecture, perhaps with a handout.
- **What happens if the student doesn't complete the project?**
 - The student will not get Honors credit for the course. Failure to complete the Honors contract should not affect the student's grade in the course.
 - If the student does not complete the project, please contact the Honors office (honors@shsu.edu) or email us a Contract Cancellation Form: https://www.shsu.edu/academics/honors/documents-and-forms/Cancellation-Course_Contract_Cancellation_Form.pdf
- **Can I put this on my FES?**
 - Yes, contracts typically fall under "Uncompensated Overload." If your student presents research conducted in the contract (e.g. the URS), then it also falls under "Undergraduate Research."

Examples of Course Contract projects:

- Create a piece of original artwork based on your interpretation of select literary works
- Perform a scene from a play that is included on the class reading list
- Assist with a research project in a lab with the goal of submitting an abstract and presenting a poster at a conference
- Create a power point on the Greek Archaic Age and present it to the class
- Teach the class how to make tabouli in Arabic
- Learn Middle English
- Write a fantasy fiction short story in a non-English class related to the course materials (say, a psychology course)
- Keep a meditation and mindfulness journal and reflect on the efficacy of the various techniques used
- Critique a book related to some topic in class that you find interesting but that is not included on the syllabus
- Create a 10-12 minute research project and present it at the URS
- Create a 15-20 minute short film