

**PROPOSAL FORM**  
**Honors and Independent Projects in English**  
*Revised February 2023*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SMC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed course** (Please check the appropriate line):

<b>SENIOR PROJECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 489 FALL Semester
	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 SPRING Semester
<b>JUNIOR PROJECT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 389 FALL Semester
	<input type="checkbox"/> 390 SPRING Semester

**Eligibility:** Both English majors and minors who meet the requirements below are eligible to propose a junior or senior *independent* project in English. English majors who complete a senior project will earn the Honors designation if, at the conclusion of the semester they complete their project, their English GPA (including the project grade) is at least 3.7.

**GPA Requirements:** Overall GPA: 3.0 AND English GPA: 3.4

**Checklist:** In addition to completing this form (front and back), your proposal must include the following materials:

- An unofficial transcript (from APR2)
- A list of English courses (see below)
- A list of possible faculty advisors (see below)
- A carefully written, typed prospectus (see below)
- A tentative reading list (see below)

**Deadlines:** Proposals for fall semester independent projects are due to the chair of the English department by 4 p.m. (EST) on **March 1**. Proposals for spring semester projects are due to the chair by 4 p.m. (EST) on **November 1**.

-----*For committee use only*-----

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**List of ENG courses completed at the 300 or 400 level.** To qualify for a senior project, students must have completed *at least two* 300- or 400-level English courses. To qualify for a junior project, students must have completed *at least one* 300-level English course. Finally, to qualify for *any* independent study in **creative writing**, students must have completed the *full sequence* of courses (intro and advanced levels) in the genre of their proposed project by the conclusion of the semester BEFORE they intend to undertake the proposed project. Please list those courses here as well, if relevant:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**List of possible faculty sponsors.** Before submitting a proposal, you should identify the English department’s acknowledged specialist(s) in your project’s area of concentration. Ideally, you will shape your proposal in collaboration with a faculty member who is *willing and able* to advise the project for its duration. However, you should also consult with other possible faculty advisors in the event that your preferred choice becomes unavailable. The Honors and Independent Projects Committee will select faculty advisors on the basis of *availability*. In other words, the student, the project topic, and the faculty advisor must be a good match. Please list *three* names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Prospectus.** Attach a carefully written prospectus for the project of 3-4 pages. This prospectus should have a logical structure (in essence, you’re making an argument for why your project matters); it should read like a polished paper that you would submit for a course assignment (be as detailed and specific as possible; a cursory, general, or careless proposal will not be considered); and it should answer the questions below:

- What is the *focus* of your proposed project? Is it a creative writing or literary studies project? What exactly do you plan to do—write a memoir, analyze a work of literature? What form do you imagine the project taking—a chapbook, a series of essays, a critical article? (Please state these intentions clearly in the first paragraph of your prospectus.)
- For critical writers, what *texts, authors, genres, or traditions* do you plan to examine, and why? What *critical methodologies* will you employ? In other words, you might explain your intended theoretical approach (e.g., feminism, postcolonialism, etc.) and identify one or two critical theorists whose insights you intend to apply. You are not wedded to this critical approach, but it may help to have a tentative plan in mind.
- For creative writers, what *stylistic or formal choices* will you make in your project? In other words, do you aspire to practice a particular *genre* or employ any particular *stylistic approaches*? Who are the *key influences* on your project? Can you identify a few authors or books that may serve as models for your own work?

- What is the *purpose* or goal of your project? What is its significance or exigence? Why does it matter, and why now? Who is the intended audience for your project? In other words, answer the “so what” question.
- Describe the *genesis* of this project. How did you become interested in it? Did it begin as work for a previous course? If so, how do you plan to build upon that work? What is the rationale for working on this project? In other words, explain why the work you propose to undertake cannot be accommodated by, or incorporated into, an existing course.
- Summarize your consultations with English department *faculty members* regarding the project. With whom have you consulted thus far? Have you assembled this proposal in collaboration with any faculty members? Which faculty member would you like to serve as your project advisor? Is your commitment to the project contingent upon working with anyone in particular? Are there other faculty members with whom you would be willing to work?
- Include a short *reading list* of primary and/or secondary works that you will consult during your project. (Tip: In collaboration with a faculty member, you should be able to generate a list of at least 3-4 titles.) Please format this reading list in MLA style.

The department is concerned that all independent projects be academically rigorous. This prospectus is your opportunity to demonstrate the value of your project as well as your level of commitment to it. The Honors and Independent Projects Committee will reject proposals in which the prospectus lacks clarity, professionalism, and a sense of purpose.

This prospectus should be typed as a Word document (not as an email), double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins. Include your name in the upper left corner and give your project a tentative title.

Finally, the Honors and Independent Projects Committee *may* also request that you send along a writing sample to address any concerns about your potential as a creative or critical writer. You do not *need* to include this writing sample in your original proposal submission, but please be prepared to respond to the committee’s requests.

**Project Length.**

Projects in literary studies should be 15-20 pages.

Projects in creative writing will vary in length by genre and in consultation with the advisor.

**Spring Reception.** Students who complete senior projects will be invited to share and celebrate their work at the end of the spring semester.

**Binding Honors Projects.** Students who earn Departmental Honors will have their projects bound by the University. Upon approval, they should submit the final manuscript in triplicate to English Department secretary. The title page should list the project title; the name and home address of the student; and the project advisor's name with a line for the signature. See the model.

Title: Subtitle (e.g., A Novel)

in fulfillment of the requirements for  
Departmental Honors in English  
DATE

Honors Candidate's NAME  
Home ADDRESS

*Signature* of Project Advisor \_\_\_\_\_