HONOURS IN
MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN
STUDIES

COURSE INFORMATION FOR
PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
2011
Honours in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

The Discipline of MEMS encourages its able and interested students to consider enrolling for an honours degree. The following is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about our honours programme.

What is the honours degree?

It involves specialised work (either full-time or part-time) during a fourth year of study after completing your pass BA with a major in MEMS. The programme consists of two core seminar units, two elective seminar units and a dissertation of up to 15,000 words on a research topic of your choice.

It is also possible to do 'joint honours' in two discipline areas. For example, MEMS and English, or MEMS and History are common combinations. Alternatively you may take one seminar in another discipline for an honours degree in MEMS with cognate study in the other discipline.

When can I begin my honours degree?

If you wish to enter the honours programme immediately after completing your pass degree you can begin either at the start of the academic year in February or mid-year in July.

If you prefer to take a break before commencing honours, that is no problem. The Faculty allows you up to seven years after the completion of your Pass degree in which to enrol.

What sort of academic record do I need to enter the honours programme?

The Faculty requirement for admission to honours is that in most of your units you have attained marks of 65 per cent or better; in addition, we hope that in a majority of the MEMS units you have studied you will have achieved 70 per cent or better.

If you do not exactly meet those requirements you may still apply, but a special case would need to be made.

Why do honours in MEMS?

Personal Satisfaction If you enjoy MEMS, you will find that UWA’s MEMS discipline offers one of the richest and most interesting selection of honours courses in Australia. Medieval and Early Modern Studies at UWA offers exciting specialist seminars available across a range of disciplines. Doing honours can be a very enjoyable as well as an intellectually stimulating experience. You work more closely with other students and academic staff than is generally possible in pass units. And most students find writing the dissertation to be a wonderful opportunity to develop a personal research interest.
Prerequisites for a Higher Degree  Universities normally demand a completed honours degree for admission to a MA or PhD programme and to many postgraduate course-work diplomas/degrees. Students with an Honours degree can take the shortened version of the UWA Masters of MEMS by coursework (48 points instead of 72 points). And for those wishing to pursue doctoral studies, here or abroad, UWA can give you the competitive edge, with training in palaeography, epigraphy, numismatics and early modern Latin for example.

Employment Prospects  An honours degree is certainly a way to enhance your qualifications and improve your prospects of employment in a great variety of occupations. MEMS graduates have obtained research and administrative positions with the State and Commonwealth public services, positions in museums and heritage organisations, as well as in teaching, business journalism and broadcasting.

What does the MEMS honours programme look like?

The MEMS honours programme can be undertaken full or part-time. If undertaken part-time, the dissertation is usually the final element of the course. The structure below shows an example of a full-time enrolment, commencing Semester 1. You can commence the course in Semester 1 or 2 of each year.

First semester of honours enrolment

MEMS7481 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 1: Reading the Pre-Modern World (6 points)
MEMS7483 Elective Seminar 1 (6 points)
MEMS7479 Dissertation 1 (12 points)

Second semester of honours enrolment

MEMS7482 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 2: Interpreting the Pre-Modern World (6 points)
MEMS7484 Elective Seminar 2 (6 points)
MEMS7480 Dissertation 2 (12 points)
Applying for admission

• Prior to applying for admission, it is necessary to meet with the Director of the Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies and discuss your application. Please contact:
  Professor Andrew Lynch
  Arts Building, Room 1.09
  Ph: 6488 2185
  Email: andrew.lynch@uwa.edu.au

• Prior to this meeting it is useful to have given some consideration to the general nature of the research question you would like to pursue in your dissertation and a possible supervisor. To choose a supervisor you might start by consulting the MEMS website to explore the range of areas that staff are prepared to supervise.

• End-On Honours applications are made online via your studentConnect account. Application dates for entry in semester 1 2011 are:
  Applications Open: 4th October 2010
  Applications Close: 26th November 2010

  Please select the Honours application link on the following website for full information:

• You should also consult the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science's Honours policy:
  http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/honours

If you are interested in applying you should see the Director of CMEMS during October for first semester entry, or June for mid-year entry.

All applications for MEMS Honours must be approved by the both the Discipline and the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Science.
Core Seminars

Semester 1

MEMS7481 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 1
*Texts and Approaches: Reading the Pre-Modern World*

Co-ordinator: Dr Jacqueline Van Gent

This unit consists of three four-week modules, designed to prepare students to understand a variety of medieval and early modern document sources in manuscript and print form. Attention is paid to the construction of medieval and early modern documents in relation to their particular historic contexts and functions. The modules planned for 2011 are: ‘Early English Romance in its Contexts’ (Andrew Lynch); ‘Legal Readings and Criminal Records 1650 to 1830’ (David Barrie); and ‘Witchcraft: Pamphlets, Court Transcripts and Modern Source Editions’ (Jacqueline Van Gent).

Semester 2

MEMS7482 Interdisciplinary Core Seminar 2
*Themes and Connections: Interpreting the Pre-Modern World*

Co-ordinator: Dr Jacqueline Van Gent

This unit analyses three key themes of the pre-modern world in order to provide a deeper understanding of this era. Each theme will draw on a diverse range of evidence, from the literary and historical to the artistic, and is examined from different disciplinary perspectives. Themes covered in 2011 may include: ‘The Medieval Troy Legend’ (Andrew Lynch); ‘Useful Knowledges’ (Jenna Mead); ‘Social Networking in Early Modern Europe: The Republic of Letters’ (Haskell).
Elective Seminars

MEMS Honours students select an approved Honours Seminar unit offered by a MEMS related Discipline, including History, Classics, English and Cultural Studies and Fine Arts. Seminars planned for 2011 include:

**Semester 1:**
Steve Chinna (ECS): *Performing Revenge: Tragedy, Morality and Wild Justice*
This seminar unit will explore the ongoing resonance of the revenge motif in performance from the Elizabethan/Jacobean period to the present. This will be through an analysis of the themes, forms and conventions of a selection of Revenge Tragedy play and film/video texts.

Richard Read (VISA): *The Conflict between Commercial and Aesthetic Values in European Paintings of Reversed Paintings*
The course is based on the premise that paintings that depict the raw canvas or coverings of the backs of paintings serve as a peculiarly instructive barometer of the changing fortunes of and fantasies associated with the emergence of paintings as exchangeable commodities

**Semester 2:**
Jenna Mead (ESC): *Reading the Canterbury Tales*
This unit offers students the opportunity to read Geoffrey Chaucer's late work, The Canterbury Tales, often regarded as a canonical work in English literature and one with an extensive history of reading and re-reading

Full details on the above units, plus additional elective units that may become available, will be posted on the CMEMS website.

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