

## SYLLABUS

### ISC 4971: Honors Thesis, 3 semester hours

*Syllabus prepared by John Burkardt*

## 1 Course Overview

The Honors Thesis course fulfills a requirement of the FSU Honors in the Major Program.

In order to complete the FSU Honors in the Major Program, a student must carry out a research thesis in the major area of study under the guidance of a faculty committee, who approve the initial research plan, supervise the ongoing work, and approve the thesis during a final oral defense. A student completing the honors thesis will then graduate “with honors”.

The Honors in the Major Program is modeled after graduate school. The requirements for the thesis include:

- Your thesis work must extend over two or three semesters.
- For each semester of thesis work, you must register for a 3 semester hours of 4000-level honors thesis credit.
- You will choose a committee of at least three faculty members to work with, who are most often tenured or tenure-track; two of the committee members must be from the Department of Scientific Computing, and one from another department.
- Near the beginning of the first term of your thesis work, you will prepare a prospectus, which outlines the topic and the approach of your work, which will be reviewed and approved by your committee.
- You will complete a written document based on your research.
- You will defend your thesis orally before your committee.

Once you have completed and successfully defended your thesis, you will graduate “with honors” in your major, a designation that is noted on your transcript, but not on your diploma.

## 2 Admission Requirements

If you wish to take the Honors Thesis course, you must first be admitted to the FSU Honors in the Major Program, for which you must meet the following requirements:

- You must have a cumulative FSU GPA of at least 3.200;
- You must have at least 60 hours of college credit;
- There must be at least two full terms before your anticipated graduation;

If you are a transfer student, then:

- You must have been at FSU for at least one full term of 12 semester hours;
- You must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.200 at FSU and your previous institution.

To apply for enrollment in the FSU Honors in the Major Program, go to “<http://honorsinthemajor.fsu.edu/docs/index.html>”.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.200 must be maintained in order to remain in the Honors in the Major Program.

### **3 University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

### **4 Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students's academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>.)

### **5 Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

1. register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
2. bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

### **6 Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services's comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact [tutor@fsu.edu](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu). High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

### **7 Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.