



Environmental and Resource Science/Studies 4010Y/4020D

FOURTH YEAR THESIS 20010/20011

Supervisor(s): to be arranged by student

Coordinator: David Holdsworth

ES B308

748-1011 X 7642

Secretary: Deb Mills

ES B202

748-1011 X 7199

Research Workshop:

ERSC/ST 4010/4020D 501033 Thesis Course SEM SC 115 W 16:00 17:50 One two-hour workshop weekly. Additional meetings to be arranged with supervisor. To register see ERS Registration Instructions

The Honours Thesis course is an option for students who have demonstrated proficiency in their first three full years of undergraduate work. It is designed to achieve more than one purpose: On the one hand, the course can provide experience with supervised independent research that will prepare students for graduate research in environmental and resource science/studies, or in cognate fields; on the other hand, the course can permit academic exploration and cultivation of special expertise by students who have a strong interest in a particular (usually interdisciplinary) topic and who have the capability for independent study.

The Honours Thesis course must be taken for 2 full credits. However, the course may be taken for one credit in ERS and one credit in another department. Alternatively, both credits may be designated as ERS credits.

Activities and Expectations

The major work in this course is the thesis research. This is arranged with the thesis supervisor. Basic instruction on research methods may be provided in the workshops, as required. In order to foster the development of interdisciplinary understanding, both science and arts students will participate in the same workshops.

The workshops will double as a forum for the oral presentation of student research proposals and final results. All ERS faculty are invited and encouraged to participate in the presentations.

The Research Workshop will meet irregularly, but when it meets for presentations attendance is compulsory. Non-thesis honours students may also attend. Students should use the Workshop as a place to consult about problems with their own research projects. In return, feedback should be freely offered. Students should also be prepared at each workshop to discuss that session's topic as it pertains to their project.

Both the oral research proposals and final results should be presented in a professional manner with arguments and/or data clearly summarized on overhead acetates or 35mm slides. Use of PowerPoint is discouraged, unless there are built-in facilities in the room we are assigned, since it frequently causes delays in setup. Written submissions to the research supervisor(s) should be provided according to some negotiated schedule. Suggestions for such a schedule are provided below. All students and instructors are encouraged to provide signed written critical comments about each oral presentation. These will be collected at the end of that workshop session and given to the presenter.

Grading (guidelines only – discuss with your supervisor)

1. Oral and written presentation of a research proposal and arguments demonstrating its feasibility - 15%.
2. Oral presentation of research results and defence of those results - 10%.
3. Written thesis - 75%.

All theses will have two readers. Joint-majors will have one from ERS and one from the other academic unit. Single-majors will normally have two readers from ERS.

Support Services Provided by ERS

1. Instruction: Faculty supervision; Workshops on research practices.
2. Resources: Limited research facilities; up to \$50 per ERS credit of research support, granted upon request with receipts.

Communication

A WebCT (My Learning System) site has been created for the Thesis Course. This will be the preferred means of communication between students and the course coordinator. Supervisors can be added to the site at their discretion.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's Academic Integrity Policy. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more: www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (BL Suite 109; 748-1281; disabilityservices@trentu.ca) as soon as possible.

Schedule and Deadlines (guidelines only)

Workshops will be announced on an ongoing basis. Dates will be posted outside the ERS office, outside ESB 308, and on WebCT.

Term 1

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|---------------------------|--|
| Sept. 22 | Introductory Session |
| TBA | <i>ad hoc</i> workshops on selected topics to be discussed in the Introductory Workshop |
| Nov. 03
and
Nov. 10 | - oral presentation of thesis research proposals and preliminary arguments demonstrating their feasibility.
- ten minute presentations with 10 minutes for questions.
- attendance compulsory |
| Dec. 03 | written submission of thesis research proposal to supervisor(s) |

Term 2

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| TBA | <i>Ad hoc</i> workshops as required

(One week prior to your own presentation) written submission of draft "introduction", "literature review" and "methods" or equivalents to supervisor(s) - to be returned in time for you to use feedback |
| TBA | twenty minute presentations of thesis research results followed by 10 minutes of questions |
| Mar. 25 | submission of written draft thesis to supervisor(s) |
| Apr. 01 | return of comments on draft thesis student |
| Apr. 08 | submission of final version of thesis to supervisor(s) |
| Apr. 15 | confirmation that thesis is acceptable to the supervisor(s) and submission of grade to the course coordinator |

Note: The schedule above for exchange of drafts is only a guideline. Other arrangements can be negotiated between each student and supervisor to suit their needs.