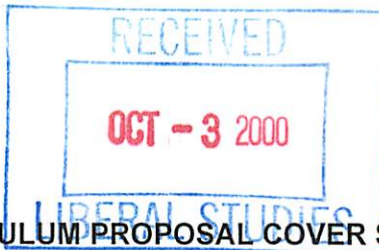


LSC Use Only
Number: _____
Submission Date: _____
Action-Date: _____



UWUCC USE Only
Number: 00-34
Submission Date: _____
Action-Date: UWUCC App 2/13/01
Senate App 2/27/01

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. CONTACT

Contact Person Janet Goebel (and Charles Cashdollar) Phone x4971

Department Honors College

II. PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)

COURSE Honors Thesis
Suggested 20 character title

New Course* HC 483 - Honors Undergraduate Thesis
Course Number and Full Title

Course Revision _____
Course Number and Full Title

Liberal Studies Approval + _____
for new or existing course Course Number and Full Title

Course Deletion _____
Course Number and Full Title

Number and/or Title Change _____
Old Number and/or Full Old Title

New Number and/or Full New Title

Course or Catalog Description Change _____
Course Number and Full Title

PROGRAM: Major Minor Track

New Program* _____
Program Name

Program Revision* _____
Program Name

Program Deletion* _____
Program Name

Title Change _____
Old Program Name

New Program Name

III. Approvals (signatures and date)

Janet E. Goebel
Department Curriculum Committee

Janet E. Goebel
Department Chair

n/a
College Curriculum Committee

n/a
College Dean

[Signature]
*Provost (where applicable)



Form To Request Approval of an Honors College Course

HCC# ✓
Action Date fall 99

Cover Sheet: Proposal for Honors College Course

Course Title: HONORS UNDERGRADUATE Thesis Course Number HC 483

Department(s): HONORS College

Professor(s): VARIED Phone and E-Mail X4971 JGoebel@grove.jup.edu

Prerequisites: permission

Please check all that apply:

- This is a proposal for an Honors section of an existing course
- This is a proposal for a new Honors course.
- This course is designed to meet a Liberal Studies requirement.
- This course is open to non-majors.
- If offered, this course would NOT require replacement FTE for my department.
- If offered, this course would SOMETIMES require replacement FTE for my department.
- If offered, this course would ALWAYS require replacement FTE for my department.
- My department/college is willing to offer this course in summer, as needed.

When is the earliest semester/summer session that you will be ready to teach this course?

Signatures: Department Curriculum Committee Janet Goebel

Department Chairperson Janet Goebel

College Dean N/A

Director, Honors College Janet Goebel

Please attach the following components to this cover sheet:

- 1. A UWUCC course proposal cover sheet (for New courses only)!
- N/A 2. The syllabus of record approved by the UWUCC for this course (for Existing courses only)!
- 3. The syllabus for your proposed Honors version of this course in which course objectives are phrased as course questions, i.e., "The course will attempt to enable students to answer the questions: What is a 'good' film? What is a mathematical model? How is mathematics connected to life? What does it mean to think like a biologist?"
- N/A 4. Answers to the ten (10) questions of the Honors College Committee. *

Please number all pages. Provide 14 copies to the Honors College Committee.

* Because this is designed to be taught by many instructors who would answer the questions differently, HCC waived our requirement in this case.

Course Proposal for HNRC 483 Honors Thesis

Background and Rationale

As specified by the *Plan for an IUP Honors College* passed by the IUP Senate in 1992, Honors College students are encouraged (but not required) to complete an undergraduate thesis. While a few departments already have an approved course number for an undergraduate thesis, most do not. This course proposal is designed as a convenience for those departments who wish to use it. It provides:

1. A number that a department's Honors College majors may use to schedule their undergraduate theses. Departments that have their own thesis numbers are certainly free to continue using them, and to apply for an "H" designation for such courses. Departments that wish to create their own numbers in the future may, of course, submit a proposal through regular university channels. For other departments—at least in the meantime—the existence of this course will greatly streamline the procedures. HNRC 483 will assure that their students will be able to choose a thesis option with minimal paperwork on the part of faculty who might otherwise have to write a new course proposal and establish a course number before a student could even begin. HNRC 483 will be especially convenient for departments in which an honors thesis number might be infrequently used; such departments could choose to use this number on a permanent basis if they wish to do so.
2. A convenient mechanism for assuring that payment for the supervision of Honors College theses as independent study payment comes from the Honors College rather than from department or college budgets for independent study. (Departments using their own departmental thesis numbers for Honors College students will need to designate clearly on independent study approval forms which students are Honors College students so that their college office and the Honors College office can apply the payment to the correct budget.)
3. General thesis guidelines that are flexible enough to meet the requirements of diverse disciplines.

In proposing HNRC 483, the Honors College wants departments to have as much freedom as possible in working with their Honors College students toward completion of an honors thesis and asks only that:

1. A committee of three faculty members agrees the research is worthwhile. Normally this would be a thesis director and two additional readers (at least one of which would also be in the student's major department); exceptions to this will be made in cases where the nature of the thesis topic or the availability of faculty in the student's department so dictates.
2. The supervising faculty and student attempt to fulfill the course objectives (see "II. Course Objectives") as the norms of research in the discipline allow.
3. Proper Independent Study and topic approval forms are completed and records kept as needed by the Honors College.
4. Two copies of the thesis are submitted to the Honors College for binding at Honors College expense; these copies will remain in the Honors College. Should a department wish a copy for its archives, a third copy may be submitted to be bound at Honors College expense and returned to the department.

While the tone of IUP course proposals inevitably rings imperative, it is our hope that departments will see this course proposal as a flexible starting place. The approval process and agreement to direct a thesis still begin at the department level.

Disciplinary protocols vary, and no generic proposal such as this one will be able to use language that sounds equally familiar and comfortable to all. We have tried as much as possible to adopt language from the IUP Graduate School's *Thesis Manual* in the belief that this wording has already demonstrated its practicality for us here at IUP. Where awkwardness still remains, we expect that honors students and their thesis directors can use their individual thesis proposals to adapt and modify what follows according to the standards of their disciplines. Those departments wishing to add requirements and/or procedures for their particular department may do so.

We hope that eventually all departments will have their own thesis numbers opening thesis work to all IUP students deemed capable by their departments, and that such students' transcripts will show an "H" designation—whether they are enrolled in the Honors College or not. We have, however, restricted enrollment in HNRC 483 to Honors College students partly because we are using this course as a convenient mechanism for paying faculty out of the Honors College budget, and partly because it is not the business of the Honors College to establish theses for non-Honors College students.

I. Catalog Description

HNRC 483 Honors Thesis

1-6 credits
0—lecture hours
0—lab hours
var—1-6sh

Prerequisites: Honors College student in good standing; at least junior status at time topic is proposed. **Prior approval through advisor, faculty members, department chairperson, dean, and Provost's Office.**

An intensive, focused study involving independent research within the student's major discipline culminating in a written thesis approved by a thesis director and two faculty readers/committee members. May be taken more than once to a maximum of 6sh. **Approval is based on academic appropriateness and availability of resources.**

II. Course Objectives:

1. Students will work with faculty in their major field of study to define a research problem and the objectives of their investigation.
2. Students will review literature pertinent to the problem.
3. Students will describe research methods used in detail sufficient to allow other investigators to replicate or evaluate the investigation and its outcomes.
4. Students will describe their research findings and their relation to findings obtained by other investigators.
5. Students will describe conclusions to be drawn from the research results obtained.
6. Students will provide an objective and critical evaluation of the entire investigation.
7. Students will demonstrate a solid understanding of concepts and ideas relevant to the problem under study.
8. Students will write a thesis that is succinct, logical in construction, free of mechanical errors, documented according to the format normal in the discipline, and meticulous in attention to detail.

III. Detailed Course Outline:

Because this is an independent study thesis course, there is no outline of course content. The student will meet with and be closely supervised by the student's thesis director, with the frequency of such meetings, the research methodology employed, and the nature of the supervision expected to vary according to the normal patterns of the student's discipline. See attached examples.

III. Evaluation Methods:

The thesis director will work with the student to determine guidelines for evaluation of the thesis in line with requirements of the discipline and the objectives listed above. The thesis director will be the instructor of record, but two additional faculty will read the thesis, participate in an oral defense, and be consulted by the director in determining the student's grade. Work completed toward the thesis and the final thesis itself will be evaluated according to the HNRC 483 course objectives and according to the appropriate disciplinary standards and conventions.

IV. Required reading:

Varies according to the thesis topic and discipline. Part of Objective 1 (above) is definition of a problem that can be managed in the time allowed.

V. Special Resource Requirements:

The requirement that the two copies of the thesis be bound at Honors College expense requires the Honors College budget be adequate to annually support this requirement.

VI. Bibliography Used in Preparing Proposal:

IUP Graduate School, *Thesis Manual*

Syracuse University Honors Program Website: "Senior Honors Thesis Project"
<http://sumweb.syr.edu/honors>

Tufts University, "Submission Guidelines for Undergraduate Honors Theses"
www.library.tufts.edu/archives/Honors/tulips.html

University of California, Irvine, "Senior Research and Thesis"
www.honors.uci.edu/student/curiculum/research.html

Western Kentucky University, "Honors Thesis" www.wku.edu/Dept/Special/Honors/handbook.htm

Villanova University, "The Senior Thesis" www.honorsprogram.villanova.edu

Course Analysis Questionnaire**A. Details of the Course**

A1. This course will count toward the Honors College requirement of 23 total honors hours, and will make it possible for more students to follow the recommendation that, where possible, they complete advanced honors work in their own fields. Departments may also, at their own discretion, decide to count the course as an elective toward credit in the major or to consider it as a substitute for a required course in the major.

A2. This course does not require changes in any courses or programs within the Honors College.

A3. This course has not previously been offered as a Special Topics class.

A4. This course is not intended to be dual level.

A5. This course may be taken for variable credit 1-6 credits; the course may also be taken for repeat credit. This combination of variable credit and repeat credit allows the maximum flexibility for departments to design theses appropriate to their disciplines and curricula. While 3sh would be the normal minimum for a thesis, departments seeking a more substantial thesis might wish to use a full year 3sh-3sh format, or even a three-semester, 2sh-2sh-2sh format. The decision about the appropriate number and sequence of credits would be made by the thesis director according to accepted standards in the field and department. Decisions to plan theses of more than 3sh would need to be made in consultation with the Honors College director to verify available funding for faculty payment. Again, as stated in the preface, the goal of this proposal is to facilitate the varied needs of departments and disciplines.

A7. Many honors program include a senior thesis either as a requirement or a recommended elective' for examples, see "VI. Bibliography Used in Preparing this Proposal" above.

A8. The National Collegiate Honors Council does not mandate any particular honors curriculum, but it strongly supports the inclusion of senior theses within an honors program. See, for instance, its guide to the planning of programs, *Beginning in Honors*.

B. Interdisciplinary Implications

B1. This course is not designed to be team taught, at least as that term is commonly understood. One faculty member will be the designated instructor of record and receive independent study compensation; two other faculty will, however, read the thesis and participate in the oral defense.

B2. As explained in the "Background and Rationale" at the front of this proposal, a few departments (history, psychology, and philosophy) currently have departmental thesis courses. It would be up to those departments to choose whether they preferred that an Honors College student work under HNRC 483 or under their own department numbers. Other departments may choose to propose departmental thesis numbers in the future. HNRC 483 is being created as a convenience to departments that wish to use it; it is not intended to interfere with what already exists or to foreclose what may later be created.

B3. Any student enrolled both in the Honors College and in the School of Continuing Education's B. S. degree program would be eligible for this course.

C. Resources

C 1. No new faculty is needed to teach this course. This course requires that the Honors College budget be adequate to support the necessary independent study compensation.

C2. Current space allocations are adequate to offer this course. No new additional equipment is required to teach this course. No supplies are required to teach this course. Students will need to choose topics that are supportable by available library resources. No travel funds are required to teach this course. Honors College students may apply to the Honors College for limited funds to support their research.

C3. No grant funds are associated with this course.

C4. This course will be offered as needed every semester and summer session.

C5. Similar to a usual independent study course, discrete sections will be created for each student.

C6. Any number of students may be accommodated in this course. Approximately 10 students in the Class of 2000 chose to write honors theses; it is expected that this number will rise, although not dramatically, with the greater convenience provided by HNRC 483.

C7. The National Collegiate Honors Council does not mandate any particular honors curriculum, but it strongly supports the inclusion of senior theses within an honors program. See, for instance, its guide to the planning of programs, *Beginning in Honors*.

D. Miscellaneous

Attachments:

1. Provost's statement on adequacy of independent study money.
2. Procedure for Completion of a Thesis
3. Responsibilities:
 - a. the candidate
 - b. the thesis director
 - c. the Honors College
4. Undergraduate Thesis Topic Approval Form
5. Undergraduate Thesis Cover Page
6. Undergraduate Thesis Approval Page
7. Sample Thesis Topic I (see "Outline of the Course" above)

8. Sample Thesis Topic II (see "Outline of the Course" above)
Attachment 2: Procedures for Completion of a Thesis—Advice to Students

If you are even considering a senior honors thesis, you should attend an informational meeting during the fall or very early spring of your junior year. At these meetings, current senior thesis students and the Honors College director will talk about what is involved in a thesis project and what are the best ways to begin. Watch for announcements about these meetings. Students intending to study abroad during their junior years should attend an informational meeting before they leave.

Reminder: Registration for the fall semester of your senior year takes place in March of your junior year; while you can certainly add HNRC 483 to your schedule at a later date, you will want to take this into account as you are planning your senior year.

Ideally, then, an undergraduate thesis topic should be proposed in the spring before the senior year, or at least over the summer. While it is not absolutely impossible to propose a thesis topic at the very beginning of the senior year, the longer you wait, the harder it is to put together a good thesis proposal. If you are planning to apply to graduate or professional schools, or to make early applications for employment, you will want to have the project well underway by the fall of the senior year so that faculty can refer to the thesis in recommendation letters.

Once you have decided that you want to write a thesis, you should secure an "Honors Thesis Topic Approval Form" from the Honors College office in Whitmyre Hall. It will indicate the steps and signatures that are needed.

Your first step is to identify a faculty member to direct your work. Your adviser or another faculty member in your major department will be able to help you with this choice. You will want to choose a faculty member whose own expertise matches the topic or area of research that you wish to pursue. In some cases this might be a faculty member with whom you are not familiar, but usually it is better to work with a faculty member that you know well, and that knows you. This person is known as your *thesis director*, and you will be working closely with this person throughout the project.

The next step is for you and your thesis director to design a workable project. The boundaries of acceptable thesis topics will vary from discipline to discipline, but some general comments are possible. A thesis topic should raise a question or questions for which answers are not readily apparent. It should allow you to demonstrate your ability to use the research methods of your discipline, and to creatively tackle a problem that is considered significant in your field. It also has to be practical. It has to be feasible in the allotted time and with the library, laboratory, and field resources that are available. *Note: if your research involves human subjects or animals, you may need to seek approval from the IRB or Animal Care Review; your thesis director will be able to advise you if you have a question about this.*

Once a topic has been decided, you will need to identify two other faculty members to read your thesis when it is completed. At least one of these readers should be from your major department unless yours is an exceptional case because of the nature of your topic or the number of available faculty in your department. Your thesis director will again be able to help you. Your thesis director and the two readers are called your *thesis committee*. You will want to establish good communication with all members of your committee so that they understand and endorse the direction you are taking with your research.

Once all is in place, you will need to collect the required signatures on the "Honors Thesis Approval Form" and submit it to the Honors College office. When the form has been returned to you with the signature of the Honors College director, you may register for HNRC 483 and begin work.

As you begin your work, you will want to establish a schedule of deadlines for completing the research, writing the first draft, revising, and so forth. You and your thesis director will also need to discuss and agree upon expectations for length, documentation, format, and quality.

The final step is to present your finished thesis to your thesis committee, and to schedule a time for your committee to meet you to discuss your findings and to ask questions they might have. This meeting is called your *thesis defense*. You will want to schedule this early enough that you can make any final revisions based on this meeting. Assuming that your committee finds your thesis acceptable, they will sign the cover page. You will then need to turn in two copies of the final thesis to the Honors College; these

will be bound and become part of the Honors College archives. No credit for the thesis can be awarded until final signatures have been obtained on the Undergraduate Thesis Approval Page and copies of the thesis are deposited in the Honors College.

Attachment 3: Responsibilities

The candidate:

The candidate/student's responsibilities are:

1. Commit yourself to doing your very best work. An honors thesis is the culmination of your undergraduate career, and should give indication of your ability to do creative, sophisticated work according to the standards of your discipline.
2. Work with a faculty member in your major to develop a proposal and put together a committee.
3. Obtain and fill out the "Honors Thesis Topic Approval Form" in time to meet all the necessary deadlines for registering for your thesis.
4. Working with the thesis director, determine the need for IRB or Animal Care Review for the project. If such review is needed, arrange to seek approval prior to submitting the "Honors Thesis Topic Approval Form" to the Honors College.
5. Work carefully with your thesis director and committee members to assure that the work is progressing in an acceptable and timely way, which allows for thorough research, careful and correct writing, and the likely possibility of revision.
6. Secure the Undergraduate Thesis Approval Page and secure signatures in triplicate when work is finished.
7. Defend the thesis.
8. Deliver two copies of the thesis to the Honors College for binding.

The thesis director/committee chair:

The thesis director is expected to guide and counsel the candidate during the thesis preparation. This guidance entails, but is not limited to, the following specific responsibilities:

1. Work with the student to make sure the thesis topic is feasible given the time allowed, the student's ability, and the resources available.
2. Work with the student to put together a committee, call committee meetings, and make sure that the candidate is working closely with the committee at each stage of the thesis process.
3. Administer all departmental, college, and honors college requirements such as securing signatures and the thesis defense. Notify the Honors College director by memo of the results of the thesis defense.
4. Approve and sign the completed thesis cover sheets, make sure that others have signed, and that the student has deposited two copies of the thesis in the Honors College.

The director of the Honors College:

1. Inform Provost of those faculty directing theses so that they are paid in a timely way.
2. Monitor scheduling to insure that only students with approved topics register for HNRC 483.
3. Monitor student graduation and accuracy of transcripts in accordance with above policies.

4. Hear and grant exceptions to the policies and objectives outlined above as needed and upon consultation with the Honors College Committee.
5. See that theses are bound and placed in the Honors College archives.

Attachment 4: "Honors Thesis Topic Approval Form"**"Honors Thesis Topic Approval Form"**

Robert E. Cook Honors College

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Student Name _____ Social Security Number _____
 E-mail address: _____ Local phone: _____ Home phone: _____
 Local address: _____ Permanent Home Address: _____

Section I (to be completed by the student):

Major Department: _____ Other Majors: _____

Minors: _____

Credits/semesters proposed: _____ (normally 3sh, but may register for up to 6 hours)

Credit Hours Toward Degree Completed to Date: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Name of Adviser: _____ Name of Thesis Director _____

Title of Thesis:

Is IRB Review Needed? _____ yes _____ no

Is Animal Care Review Needed? _____ yes _____ no

Check which approved style manuals you will be using (should be the accepted style manual for your field):

_____ American Chemical Society, *Handbook for Authors* _____ American Psychological Association,
Publication Manual _____ Campbell, *Form and Style* _____ Modern Languages Association, *MLA*
Handbook _____ Turabian, *A Manual for . . . Theses, Dissertations* _____ Other: _____

Attach to this form a one-page summary of your research topic, including the method of study you expect to use, materials and equipment you will need, and an estimated time frame to complete each step of the process.

I understand that I should not begin research on this project until I have been notified by the Director of the Honors College that this research proposal has been approved.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

[See Back for Required Signatures]

Section II. Required Signatures

Thesis Committee Signatures:

Having affixed my signature below, I hereby agree to serve on the above student's thesis committee. (A committee is made up of three persons including the thesis director; ordinarily only one member may be from outside the student's major field of study although exceptions may be made if made necessary by the nature of the topic or the number of available faculty in the field).

_____ Committee Chairperson and Thesis Director

_____ Committee Member/Reader

_____ Committee Member/Reader

Department and College Signatures:

_____ As chair of the student's major department, I understand that the student is completing an undergraduate thesis and that the above named faculty are supervising this effort

_____ As dean of the student's college, I understand that the student is completing an undergraduate thesis and that the above named faculty are supervising this effort

Honors College Approval:

As the Director of the Honors College, I have read your proposed abstract and recorded the names of your committee members. The Honors College agrees to grant honors college credit for the successful completion of this thesis as determined by your committee upon receipt of two bound copies of the finished work. The Honors College will notify the Provost of this acceptance so that the faculty director is paid. You may now register for HNRC 483 and begin your work.

_____, Honors College Director Date: _____

Attachment 5: Undergraduate Thesis Cover Page

Title of Thesis

**A Thesis Submitted to the Robert E. Cook Honors College
as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree
(name of degree including honors designation)**

Author's Name

**Name of thesis director
Name of Department
Name of College
Date**

Attachment 6: Undergraduate Thesis Approval Page

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
 Robert E. Cook Honors College
 (student's college)
 (student's department)

The thesis meets departmental and Honors College standards. (Student's name) successfully defended the thesis on _____ (date). We hereby approve the undergraduate thesis of (student's name), Class of (year of student's graduation), candidate for the degree of (student's degree including honors designation).

_____ (faculty name), Professor of (field), Director and Committee Chair

_____ (faculty name), Professor of (field), Reader and Committee Member

_____ (faculty name), Professor of (field), Reader and Committee Member

_____ (name), Director of the Robert E. Cook Honors College

Dear Professors Goebel and Cashdollar,

Your proposal for Honor Thesis course HC483 has been under review at a screening committee of the UWUCC. The sub committee, which consists of myself, Drs. Sadles and Orchard, and Ms. Laura Cramer have some revision suggestions and questions for this proposal to move forward.

Revision suggestions:

1. Please replace all prefixes of 'HC' to 'HNRC'
2. Please include the number and credits. This will look something like this:
HNRC Honor Thesis 3 credits
3 lecture hours
0 lab hour
(3c-3l-3sh)

Questions:

1. Course Proposal for HC483 Honors Thesis
Point 2: A convenient mechanism for assuring that payment for the supervision of Honors College theses as independent study payment comes from the Honors College rather than from department or college budgets for independent study. Please provide us a more detailed explanation on the mechanism of this matter. Will the faculty on the thesis committee get credit other than that payment?
2. Page 4, first paragraph: "May be taken more than once to a maximum of 6 sh". We need a clarification whether or not a student writes more than one thesis.
3. Page 4, III Evaluation method:
The thesis director will be the instructor of record, but two additional faculty will read the thesis, participate in an oral defense, and be consulted by the director in determining the student's grade.
In attachment 2: At least one of these readers should be from your major department unless yours is an exceptional case because of the nature of your topic or the number of available faculty in your department.
 - Do other departments endorse this plan?
 - On what criteria is the grade based?
4. Course Analysis Questionnaire
A1. This Course will count towards the Honors College requirement of 23 total honors hours.
 - May this course be substituted for any of the 23 honors credits or just the 6 free credits?
 - Can Senior Synthesis be replaced by this course?

Please provide us with your answers before our next screening meeting (November 15, 2000). We will send you other questions after that meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My extension number is 72931.

Your sincerely,

Kustim Wibowo

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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

Since Janet Goebel is about to leave on an extended trip for the Honors College, I'm answering your questions, and I would ask that you send correspondence to me for the next two weeks. We'll let you know when Janet is back and on duty again.

Responses to your questions are as follows:

1. I've changed HC to HNRC in the attached revised version.

2. I'm a little uncertain how you want the credits, etc., to appear. We have this in what we think is the proper catalog format for an independent study type course that has no set class hours or lab hours. In the attached revised version, I've spread this out on four lines as I think you want.

HNRC 483 Honors Thesis 1-6 credits

0 lecture hours

0 lab hours

var--1-6sh

Questions:

1a. What's the "mechanism"? There is no mysterious "mechanism" to be explained. All we are saying is that using the HNRC number is a convenient way ("mechanism") of identifying who is paying for the independent study. Regular independent study comes out of college allotments, but HC theses come out of the HC budget and are not charged against a college or department's normal allotment of independent study. So, a separate number does make the distinction easy for those departments that want to use it.

Anything that's HNRC 483 is obviously Honors College. (The history department is an example of a department that currently allows both HC history majors and non-HC history majors into its thesis course, HIST 483. It's no big deal, but we do have to be careful to mark the independent study forms so that they are charged to the right cost center. All we are saying here is that there is a certain convenience in having a discrete HNRC number because it's very clear that anyone enrolled in that number belongs to the honors college.

1b. Will faculty get additional payment? No, the thesis director will get exactly what anyone gets for independent study, according to the CBA.

2. No, the student does not write more than one thesis. But the credits may be distributed into more than one semester. This is explained in the answer to A.5. For instance, a student might shedule 3 and 3 across the senior year. The point we want to make is that the course has to be coded so that students can enroll in it more than once. Perhaps we need to reword this if it is not clear. What do you suggest?

3a. Have we checked with all the other departments on campus? No, we have not. We want to reiterate that this course is being provided as a convenience to those departments that want to use it. It does not force any department to do so, nor does it preclude any department from designing and submitting to you their own thesis courses. We have tried

to provide a relatively traditional format that should be flexible enough for most departments. The format for this course does, by the way, follow the procedure that departments now doing individually supervised senior theses use and the one the campus is familiar with for masters' theses.

3b. Criteria for the grade? This is a tough one. Essentially, the student is graded on the quality of the thesis that is produced, and if the credits are distributed across more than one semester, on the quality of the progress made in earlier semesters. Writing specific grading standards for departments ranging from chemistry to philosophy to fashion merchandizing is going to be pretty difficult if not impossible, and I think the only way this generic course proposal will work is if the HC does NOT attempt to tell physicists how to judge a physics thesis. What we can say, however, is that the theses are to be judged according to the HNRC course objectives and according to the prevailing disciplinary standards and conventions. I added such a statement to the revised proposal that is attached.

4. No, the course does not replace any of the other HC required core courses. It will fulfill the "300 level or above" requirement, and it might, depending on discipline, fulfill the non-humanities honors requirement. No, the course does not excuse students from the LS Synthesis course. That is, there is no program revision implicit in adding this course.

The catalog now says, "Students are also encouraged to complete an undergraduate thesis for graduation from the Honors College with distinction." This is simply trying to facilitate that so that 40 or so departments don't have to write up and submit a separate course proposal just in case they have a student who wants to do a thesis. If departments want their own thesis numbers (as some already have), that's fine. If they want to use this one, that's fine, too.

If you have any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer them or to sit down with you and work out any problems that there are.