



## Honors Option Course Contract

Please Print

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number, Section, and CRN: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Professor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Students may undertake Honors Option courses to fulfill the credit requirement for graduation from the Oregon Tech Honors Program. ***A grade of "A" or "B" must be earned in the course before Honors credit will be reflected on the student's transcript.***

An Honors Option course allows students to take a regularly offered course for credit in the Honors Program. The course can be in or out of the student's major.

Honors Option coursework should be completed either as an alternative to some or all of the regular course assignments, at the discretion of the faculty, or in addition to the prescribed work of a course. Merely increasing the volume of coursework required or the hours spent on it does not constitute an Honors Option for a course; thus, the quantity of work should be secondary to the quality of accomplished work. An Honors Option course should be awarded for work of higher caliber or greater depth, and for work produced with a high degree of thoughtfulness and creativity, rather than simply for a greater quantity of similar work. Honors Option coursework should be in alignment with or extend the existing outcomes of the course. The time required for Honors Option assignments, when possible, should remain commensurate with a comparable honors course having the same number of credits.

Please use the provided criteria to develop assignments or a project that serves to accomplish the mission of the Honors Program. Use this contract to articulate clearly how the project and/or assignments meet these criteria (attach additional pages if necessary). It is acceptable to ask Honors Program students to do additional assignments, or to complete a different version of an

existing assignment; however, the additional coursework should be approached as a means to produce work of greater depth or scholarly substance, or to produce work intended to have a wider audience than the course.

Honors courses, including Honors Option courses, according to the National Collegiate Honors Council (“Honors Course Design,” n.d.), will have the following five objectives, or some variation:

1. To help students develop effective written communication skills (including the ability to make effective use of the information and ideas they learn);
2. To help students develop effective oral communication skills (while recognizing that not all students are comfortable talking a lot in class);
3. To help students develop their ability to analyze and synthesize a broad range of material;
4. To help students understand how scholars think about problems, formulate hypotheses, research those problems, and draw conclusions about them; and to help students understand how creative artists approach the creative process and produce an original work;
5. To help students become more independent and critical thinkers, demonstrating the ability to use knowledge and logic when discussing an issue or an idea, while considering the consequences of their ideas, for themselves, for others, and for society.

Honors Option coursework may take many forms, and may be accomplished in many ways, including (but not limited to) the following suggestions and ideas:

- Investigating an area of the discipline not covered in depth in the regular course.
- Investigating how the student's major area(s) of interest connect with this discipline.
- Applying the information/expertise learned in the course in a creative way.
- Developing materials to be used in the course (new labs, demonstrations, explanatory handouts, or assignments).
- Participating in an appropriate and relevant faculty-initiated research project, or devising and carrying out a clearly delimited original research project.
- Completing extensive reading in the primary literature of the course.

Thus, the coursework completed to fulfill the Honors Option component for a regularly offered course may take many forms as appropriate to the nature and objectives of the course: a research paper, a bibliographic essay, a classroom or public presentation, or other forms of assessable work. Ideally, the student and professor will collaborate on the coursework to achieve the Honors Option course designation.

Honors Option Project or Assignments: include details of required work—use additional space to provide a complete description

Method of Evaluation: attach rubrics or guidelines—use additional space to provide a complete description. This work may be submitted by the end of the term.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Professor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Honors Program Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Honors Option Course Contracts are due to the Honors Program Director's office NO LATER than the end of the second week of classes during the term in which the Honors Option course is undertaken.***