BA Honours

Screen and Media

2015 Handbook
Contents

Honours Study in Screen and Media 3

BA Honours Degree Requirements 4

Thesis Component 5

Practicum Option 5

Coursework Component 6

Detailed Topic Descriptions 7

Thesis Guidelines 11

Honours Classifications 12


Undergraduate Student Services Office 8201 2578

BA Office 8201 3925
There are two courses of Honours study in Screen and Media:

**Bachelor of Arts (BA Honours)**
This course, the subject of this Handbook, is geared toward students whose orientation is primarily academic and who wish to develop their research skills, with a view, perhaps, to eventually undertaking postgraduate studies.

**Bachelor of Creative Arts (BCA Honours)**
This is designed for students who wish to develop their production skills. Please see separate BCA (Honours) Handbook for details of this course.

**BA Hons Coordinator:** karen.vered@flinders.edu.au

**Automatic offers to enter BA Honours** will be made to students who have completed the requirements for a BA, and achieved a grade point average of 5.25 (equivalent to three Credits and one Distinction) in the upper level units of their Screen and Media major. Students meeting these standards will receive an offer letter from the BA Office. Students who do not receive an automatic offer to the BA Honours program may nevertheless apply for admission.

**Applications** for BA Hons are available online:

Please see the above web page for the deadline for the receipt of applications for admission to BA Honours, normally before the Christmas break in the year preceding admission. Applicants are normally notified of the outcome of their applications in the first week of February.

A thesis (13,500 words for a 13.5-unit thesis or 18,000 words for an 18-unit thesis) is a required component of BA Honours. Prospective students should provide in their application the name of a Screen staff member who has agreed to supervise their thesis. Students should initiate discussions with potential supervisors as early as possible.

Enrolment for commencing Honours students will be conducted via the web enrolment system in February. Details of this procedure will be posted on the Screen and Media website as soon as they are available. The Enrolments Office can be reached at 8201 3950.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA HONOURS IN SCREEN STUDIES: DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To graduate with a BA Hons degree in Screen Studies, students must complete a 36-unit program as detailed below:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Compulsory:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) SCME 7000 - A, B, C, or D Thesis (13.5 or 18 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The remainder of units will be achieved through a combination of studies from among the following options:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) SCME 7001, 2, 3, 4, 5 Coursework Topics (4.5 units ea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) SCME 7058 Screen and Media Practicum (4.5 units, S1 or S2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Up to nine units of approved study at 7000-level undertaken within Flinders University but outside the Department of Screen and Media. Details must be worked out in advance of enrolment with your thesis supervisor and the Honours Coordinator.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THESIS COMPONENT

SCME 7000- A, B, C, or D: Thesis Topic in Screen and Media (combinations amounting to 13.5 or 18 units)

These topics require students to write a research thesis.

A thesis requires a greater degree of initiative, self-motivation and sustained individual effort than normally is involved in undergraduate topics in the BA. It offers students the opportunity to pursue topics and ideas that interest them in greater depth than is usually possible in undergraduate topics.

Prior to enrolment, students should discuss their research proposals with the Honours Convenor and then seek the support of an academic staff member in Screen and Media who is prepared to supervise the research project (see further details below, pp. 7-8).

PRACTICUM OPTION

SCME 7058: Screen and Media Practicum (4.5 units; S1 or S2)

This subject allows students to pursue professional work experience in a Screen-related enterprise. The number of placement options available within a given semester or year is limited.

Practicum Orientation is held in November of the year preceding enrolment. Approval for enrolment is granted at this time. Students who have not attended this meeting will not be able to enrol in this topic until they have completed the Orientation program and secured approval from Alison Wotherspoon, topic coordinator. (See further details below, p.10)
SCME 7001, 2, 3, 4 and 5: Critical and Theoretical Screen Studies
(4.5 units each)

In SCME 7001, 2, 3, 4 and 5 students pursue coursework or research project options. Coursework options are selected from upper-level Screen and Media offerings. Honours students may be required to undertake customised reading programs and assessment as directed by subject coordinators.

Students are not allowed to take a topic as SCME 7001, 2, 3, 4 or 5 if they have previously taken the undergraduate topic for their BA degree. For instance, if you have taken SCRN2107: Asian Cinema in second or third-year studies, you cannot take that topic to fulfill your Honours coursework option.

Summer Teaching Period (Jan-Feb 2015)
SCME2107: Asian Cinema (taught in Hong Kong)

Non-Semester (1)
SCME 3005: Digital Games

Semester 1

SCME2003: Non-Fiction Form and Ethics
SCME2104: Popular Genre
SCME2105: The Filmmaker: Case Studies
SCME3004: History of Film Style
SCME3013: Researching Australian Screen & Media

Semester 2

SCME2000: The Hollywood Industry
SCME2100: Media Policy
SCME2106: Narrative & Storytelling
SCME2201: Interaction Design
SCME3007: Kids’ Media Cultures
SCME3014: VFX Histories & Theories

The above listing is provisional and applicants should confirm the availability of topics prior to enrolment. Each topic listed above is worth 4.5 units.
SCME 7000, A, B, C, D: THESIS TOPIC IN SCREEN AND MEDIA

The variations represent different unit values and different semesters. Please check with the Honours Coordinator to ensure that you have enrolled in the appropriate version of SCME 7000.

Topic Coordinators: Individual Screen and Media Staff
Level: Honours
Units: Combinations amounting to 13.5 or 18 units
Semester: Semester 1 and 2
Contact Hours: Students working on a thesis are expected to meet regularly with a supervisor to discuss their research project and provide evidence of work in progress. Frequency of meetings is negotiated with the supervisor.

Pre-requisites: Honours standing
Co-requisites: none

Aims
The subject is designed for students to learn the skills of academic research and writing while exploring a topic of their choice in greater depth than they would have done as an undergraduate student. The ability to frame, construct, and execute a coherent and logical argument in written form is a primary aim.

Syllabus
Students work toward production of a thesis presenting original research in an area of Screen and Media. Students work closely with a supervisor or supervisors. Work is submitted periodically, culminating in the submission of a first draft version of the thesis. The draft will be revised in accordance with advice from the supervisor(s). Dates for the submission of work are timetabled throughout the second half of the year, leading up to the submission of a final draft, which will be no later than exam week in Semester 2.

Assessment
100% of assessment in thesis topics is based on the final draft of the thesis, although late penalties apply to work that is not submitted by the agreed date.

Planning and Organisation
Students will make arrangements to consult regularly with their supervisor; typically, fortnightly meetings will be negotiated. Students should make detailed notes of each meeting, which should then be written up and e-mailed to the supervisor soon after that meeting. Furthermore, it is recommended that students send their supervisor ahead of each meeting an e-mail message with the pages they have written since the last meeting and a clear agenda of what they want to discuss.
Relatively early in the first semester of work, students should be able to describe the scope of the research, define the topic, consider the range of possible approaches to that topic and select the most appropriate methodology to be deployed, allowing for the writing up of a broad research plan.

Students should work with their supervisor on developing their research plan, breaking down the larger task into a series of smaller ones. It may help to think of the thesis as linked chapters of 3,000 words, allowing say, the creation of four smaller deadlines.

**Use of Sources**
It is recommended that students begin their research with an annotated bibliography of local library resources, making sure that all libraries are consulted, allowing the preparation of a reading plan. Students should understand that examiners may comment on the extent to which up-to-date knowledge of their field is revealed in the thesis. The judging of the range and appropriateness of references used should be seen as a valid critical role played by examiners.

**Thesis Guidelines**
See p. 11 for information about thesis format and submission procedures.
SCME 7001, 2, 3, 4 and 5:  
CRITICAL AND THEORETICAL SCREEN AND MEDIA STUDIES

Topic Coordinators: Screen Studies Staff
Level: Honours
Units: 4.5 units each
Duration: Semesters 1 and/or 2
Contact hours: See Topic Handbooks for specific subjects
Pre-requisites: Honours standing
Co-requisites: None

Aims
This subject allows Honours students to undertake a series of advanced studies in screen media in conjunction with upper-level coursework in the Screen and Media major. In exceptional cases independent studies can be negotiated with individual staff members, although this arrangement must be in place before an enrolment waiver is given. Students participate in upper-level Screen and Media topics and they should expect to attend additional classes and/or undertake additional reading and assessment work as requested by the Topic Coordinator.

Syllabus
Students can negotiate to attach themselves to as many upper-level Screen and Media topics as they wish in any combination, up to 22.5 units.

Refer to Screen and Media course guides for the full description of topic aims and syllabus. To pursue an independent course of study, approach relevant lecturer(s) about negotiating the direction of study.

Assessment
Refer to assessment details for individual subjects and/or approach relevant topic coordinators.

Timetable
Refer to timetable details for individual subjects and/or approach topic coordinators.
SCME 7058: PRACTICUM IN SCREEN AND MEDIA STUDIES

Topic Coordinator: Alison Wotherspoon

Level: Honours
Units: 4.5
Duration: Semesters 1 or 2
Contact hours: Variable
Pre-requisites: Enrolment is restricted to students with Approval of Topic Coordinator.

Co-requisites: None

Aims
This topic is designed to assist students in identifying a career path and beginning the transition from study to employment by applying their knowledge in practice.

Syllabus
By working within a professional environment on professional projects, students learn how the workplace operates, how they can best contribute to the working environment, and also gain a realistic sense of the path ahead if they choose a career in this field. It is anticipated that students will take away something useful to their career from their placement. For instance, a letter of recommendation, a portfolio piece, or a network of associates might be among the tangible outcomes of the placement, in addition to the exploratory and educational benefits.

Assessment
Assessment will include evaluation by supervising practitioner, student self-evaluation, and review by topic coordinator.

Timetable
Subject to negotiation with industry partner and supervising practitioner.

Students must attend a Practicum Orientation to secure approval for enrolment. Without such approval, web enrolment for this topic is impossible. Placements are not guaranteed. Please see the website,

THESIS GUIDELINES

1. Theses should be 13,500 or 18,000 words in length, about 50 or 75 pages, depending on whether the student is attempting a 13.5-unit or 18-unit work. Notes, bibliography and appendices are not included in the word limit.

2. Theses must be typed/word-processed in 12-point font on one side of the page only.

3. Students should consult an appropriate reference guide, as recommended by their supervisor, for assistance with layout, citations, and the structuring of the thesis.

4. Students should aim to complete a draft of their thesis a month before the due date, to allow for feedback and revision.

5. The title page of the thesis should include:
   • Your full name
   • Title of thesis
   • Department of Screen and Media, Flinders University
   • A statement at the bottom of the page saying, “Submitted in partial completion of the requirements for the Bachelor of Arts, Honours (Screen and Media), [Year].” (Do not include quotation marks in your statement.)

6. On a separate page put this declaration: “I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.” (Do not include quotation marks in your declaration.)

7. If you include an Acknowledgements page it should precede the Contents page in which you should list your chapters and their page numbers.

8. Pages up to and including the Contents page should be numbered in small Roman numerals. The body of the thesis should be numbered in Arabic numerals.

9. Students should submit an unbound hard copy and an electronic copy of their completed thesis to the office of the Coordinator of Professional Practice and Postgraduate Services, at Humanities Rm 215. At this time students complete a Waiver Form that will be supplied by the office. The thesis will then be copied and both hard copies soft-bound free of charge and forwarded on for marking.
A graduating student’s Honours result will fall into one of the following categories:

**First Class Honours**
An average of 85 or more for all work attempted during the Honours year.

**Second Class Honours, First Division**
An average of 75-84 for all work attempted during the Honours year.

**Second Class Honours, Second Division**
An average of 65-74 for all work attempted during the Honours year.

**Third Class Honours**
An average of 50-64 for all work attempted during the Honours year.

**Fail**
An average of up to 49 for all work attempted during the Honours year.

Please note that Honours classifications depend upon the standard achieved across all topics, and not solely on the grade awarded to the candidate’s thesis.