

School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Term 1, 2022

CVEN4032/4033

HIGHER HONOURS THESIS

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*A university WAM (as assessed by the School at the completion of all stage 3 courses) of a minimum of 80 is required for entry into the course. In addition, all courses to the end of Year 3 in the discipline of the thesis topic need to be completed. Students who take the Research Thesis or Higher Honours Thesis must take CVEN4701 Planning Sustainable Infrastructure as one of their discipline electives.*

This course is differentiated from the 6+6 units of credit Honours Research Thesis courses by the substantial additional requirements of:

CVEN4032

- extended review of literature and project report
- 'in progress' research presentation
- An additional level of rigor to the assessment procedure (refer below)

CVEN4033

- an extended research thesis (approx. 30,000 equivalence)
- Completion of a submission ready research paper to an international journal standard.
- Professional presentation within the school seminar program to full School audience.

The unique learning outcomes from these courses are in promotion of higher level independence in learning, above that of Honours Research Thesis A & B, by preparing students for a potential career in academic research

and/or higher independent research skills used in industry. The advanced skill set to be developed emphasises the development of research, writing and presentation skills.

**HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION**

The thesis may describe directed laboratory, investigatory, design, field or research work on an approved subject and will be completed under the guidance and supervision of a member of the School’s academic staff.

Online Handbook description is available at MyUNSW:

- [www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2022/CVEN4032.html](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2022/CVEN4032.html)
- [www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2022/CVEN4033.html](http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2022/CVEN4033.html)

**\*PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF A RESEARCH THESIS TOPIC**

**Your priority is to find a Supervisor and agree on a topic BEFORE ENROLLING in Higher Honours A.**

- Browse online the selection of available topics and identify potential supervisors

<http://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/info-about/student-intranet/honours>

Note: It is unlikely that this list is fully up-to-date and comprehensive. It is essential that during the Term prior to enrolment in Higher Honours Thesis A that individual students approach School teaching staff in area(s) of potential interest, to explore the range of possible thesis topics that may be available.

- Discuss your selection with potential topic supervisors
- Once you have a Supervisor and topic, you will need to download, complete and sign (Noting that this must first be signed by you, your Supervisor and the Head of School) [Higher Honours Thesis Form](#) enrol yourself on myUNSW then upload the signed form to the Student Intranet here: <http://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/info-about/student-intranet/submit-thesis-application-form>
- You will only be able to complete course enrolment for CVEN4032. The School will complete your class registration once you’ve submitted your topic nomination form to the Student Intranet.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT, IF YOU CANNOT FIND A HIGHER HONOURS THESIS SUPERVISOR BY THE START OF TERM 1, THEN YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENROL IN THE COURSE.**







Again, the assessment is more rigorous than for the 6 units of CVEN4953 “Honours Research Thesis B” course requiring additional higher level research works comprising of thesis, submission-ready journal paper and a higher level presentation to a wide School audience. Students will be actively engaged with one of the School’s research groups.

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**SUMMARY OF ALL HIGHER HONOURS THESIS MARKED ASSESSMENTS**

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**Higher Honours Thesis A:**

1.	Component A1	Week 7	<b>Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory</b>
2.	Component A2	Week 10	<b>10 % of Final Mark</b>
3.	Component A3	Week 10	<b>5% of Final Mark</b>

**Higher Honours Thesis C:**

1.	Seminar Abstract	Week 7	<b>5 % of Final Mark</b>
2.	Research Seminar	Week 9-10	<b>10 % of Final Mark</b>
3.	Thesis Submission	Week 11	<b>70 % of Final Mark (incl. 10 % Supervisor)</b>
4.	Submission-ready journal manuscript	Week 11	<b>Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory</b>

***Further details of the requirements for the Seminar Abstract and the format & scheduling of Seminars will be advised by the Course Coordinator during the term.***

The Research Thesis is to be submitted electronically as a single pdf by 4.00pm on Friday of the submission week via the School’s web portal at: <http://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/research-thesis-upload-page>

The submission-ready journal paper manuscript is to be submitted to the Supervisor by 4.00pm on Friday of the submission week.

**Late Procedure** – In all cases, applications for late submission can be applied for BEFORE the due date. This is at the discretion of the Thesis Coordinator, but should only be granted in exceptional circumstances. As per normal, students can also apply through myUNSW for special consideration.

- For all other assignments beside thesis – zero (0) mark is awarded
- For thesis –

- Evans, D. "How to write a better thesis or report" Melbourne University Press, 1995.
- Winkle, A and Hart, B "Report writing Style Guide for engineering students" 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Faculty of Engineering, Flexible Learning Centre, University of South Australia, 1996.

## **DATES TO NOTE**

Refer to MyUNSW for Important Dates available at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/dates>

**PLAGIARISM** Beware! An assessment that includes plagiarised material will receive a 0% Fail, and students who plagiarise may fail the course. Students who plagiarise are also liable to disciplinary action, including exclusion from enrolment.

Plagiarism is the use of another person's work or ideas as if they were your own. When it is necessary or desirable to use other people's material you should adequately acknowledge whose words or ideas they are and where you found them (giving the complete reference details, including page number(s)). The Learning Centre provides further information on what constitutes Plagiarism at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

## **ACADEMIC ADVICE**

Refer to the School's student intranet for information about:

- Notes on assessments and plagiarism
- Special Considerations: [student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration](https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration)
- General and Program-specific questions: [The Nucleus: Student Hub](#)
- CEVSOC/SURVSOC/CEPCA

Key staff contacts: <https://intranet.civeng.unsw.edu.au/key-staff-to-contact-during-your-studies-at-unsw>

**Appendix A: Engineers Australia (EA) Competencies**

*Stage 1 Competencies for Professional Engineers*

	<b>Program Intended Learning Outcomes</b>
<b>PE1: Knowledge and Skill Base</b>	PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of underpinning fundamentals
	PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of underpinning maths, analysis, statistics, computing
	PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge
	PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions
	PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice

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<b>PE3: Professional</b>	
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