

Honors Conversion Examples

Ancient Civilizations and Biblical Studies 122 – Introduction to the New Testament

"In addition to a closer reading of the course materials, I investigated original sources on 2nd Temple Judaism and the 1st century Church Fathers such as St. Clement and the *Didache*. I met with my professor bi-weekly and corresponded via e-mail on these readings. My research culminated in an 18 page paper on the development of the person of the Holy Spirit in pre-Christian Jewish writings, the *New Testament* (main focus) and early Patristic texts."

English/Theatre 227 – Introductory Playwriting

"The professor and I decided on an additional project that would also be of some benefit to the rest of the class. Because this was a class on introductory playwriting, we decided it would be useful for me to attend six non-required plays in Ann Arbor and prepare short presentations to the class highlighting the compositional elements of each play. The professor and I had roughly equal roles in determining this format: the professor assigned four of the plays for me to see, leaving me to choose the last two....In total, my presentations probably consisted of 20 pages of writing, with about an hour of speaking time delivered in chunks throughout the term."

Astronomy 201 - Introduction to Astrophysics

"I conducted research on the Rosetta Space Probe and its mission to perform a detailed study of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. My primary source was the website of the European Space Agency (ESA), but I also used a variety of secondary sources. I gave weekly updates on the progress of the probe to my professor and wrote a brief research paper summarizing the probe's mission and discoveries at the end of the semester."

History 213 – The Reformation

"Over the course of the term, I read books and articles about the Hungarian Reformation. At the end of the term I presented a summary of my research to the class in a 15 minute Powerpoint presentation. It was as if I were a professor presenting a mini-lecture!"

Environ 256 - Culture, Adaptation, and the Environment

"Half of the grade in this course was based on an extensive research paper on a topic of our choosing from three fields related to the environment and extraction of resources. In my conversion project, I chose a topic that mirrored my professor's interests and used primary sources from her work (e.g. meeting minutes, policy drafts) to develop a topic. The paper explored how, in a post-9/11 world, the issue of African bushmeat is being transformed from one of food security to one of homeland security. After the course I continued to work with my professor as a paid research assistant. My conversion project was accepted at a conference on conservation science in Cambridge, England; and is now the basis for a chapter in an edited volume on disease emergence."

Chemistry 230 - Physical Chemical Principles and Applications

"My conversion project consisted of two 3-5 page papers and a presentation. The papers explored methods and issues in physical chemistry related to my Honors thesis research interests. I met weekly with my professor to select

journal articles, discuss my progress on the papers, and related issues in class. At the end of the semester, all the students working on conversion projects for CHEM 230 met with the professor to present our projects to one another.”

Psychology 345 – Introduction to Human Neuropsychology

“Since I was taking the course to try to more finely figure out my interests in Psychology, my professor and I decided it would be best if I did free-ranging literature review. Each week I would choose a one or two papers from professional journals to read, writing a short summary of each. Sometimes my papers would relate to class; other times I just searched for what interested me. In total I read 10 journal articles of my choosing (averaging about 10 pages each) and I wrote 10 summaries (one for each), averaging about 1 full page, single spaced. I regularly met with my professor during her office hours to discuss what I was reading, how I felt it related to the coursework, and how it might relate to future research and a possible Honors thesis. At the end of the semester I combined several summaries into a 5-page prospectus for future research.”

Latin 232 - Vergil's Aeneid

“In addition to the Latin readings assigned on the syllabus, I translated additional passages of interest in Augustus’ *Res Gestae* and Virgil’s *Aeneid*. I met with my professor every two weeks to discuss these translations and my research project. I developed a multi-media presentation of tactics and formations used by the Roman Army during the reign of Caesar Augustus using battle narratives in the *Aeneid* and *Res Gestae* and important secondary sources. This presentation was given to the class at the end of the semester.”

Architecture 313 – History of Architecture

“After working with my professor to choose a topic, my research paper went through an extensive editing process. I’m not sure exactly how much the reading was, but I had almost 20 books checked out from three different libraries. Since my topic was so specific, I only read short sections from books. The paper turned out great and I loved how closely I was able to work with my professor. It was one of the most rewarding and fulfilling projects I’ve completed at the University.”

Environment 211 - Social Sciences and Environmental Problems

“This class requires students to engage in semester-long projects applying environmental theories or real world problems. To determine the effectiveness of previous student projects, I conducted a series of interviews with campus staff advisors in various programs. I asked: How have these projects benefitted the campus or community? How could projects be done differently to broaden their impact? I met with my professor every other week to discuss the progress of my interviews. At the end of the project I summarize the positive and negative feedback received in a set of Powerpoint slides for other students in the class and wrote a summary paper of my methods and results.”