

**Instructions to Students wishing to take
ENGL 4F99 Senior Research Tutorial or Thesis
WRDS 4F99 Independent Studies in Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse**

The calendar entry for ENGL 4F99 describes it as follows: “Either tutorial combined with individual research or a thesis on a specialized topic or major author, of mutual interest to the student and the instructor.” The calendar entry for WRDS 4F99 similarly describes the course as a “Research project related to writing chosen by the student in consultation with a faculty member.” These descriptions are deliberately broad to accommodate the variety of topics and approaches of interest to students and professors; for example, these courses may range from intensive reading courses with regular meetings of instructor and student to thesis-based courses with the student working more independently to produce an undergraduate thesis (about 50 pages). In all cases, the courses require permission of the Chair, and the calendar notes that “the Chair must approve proposals for projects and circulate approved projects to the Department.”

Students interested in these courses must meet the following **criteria**:

- they must have applied and been accepted into fourth year Honours.

Students should recognize that these are full-year courses, requiring ongoing study, writing, and communication / meetings with the professor throughout both the fall and winter terms. As full-year courses, they can have a significant impact on a student’s grade. Students are advised to consult with the Chair or the Academic Advisor to make sure their list requirements have been met, since neither ENGL 4F99 or WRDS 4F99 are designated to one specific list.

The following **steps** are necessary for students to enroll in these courses:

1. Students develop a viable topic to study;
2. Students email a written description of the topic to an appropriate professor in the Department of English Language & Literature (one whose research and teaching interests match the topic) to see if he or she would be willing to take on this unscheduled teaching (for example, a professor may already supervise multiple students, or have other obligations that mean he or she may not be able to take on the project);
3. When a student and a professor have agreed on a topic and the parameters of the course, a proposal (3 to 5 pages) and / or course description as well as the criteria for evaluation are submitted to the Chair;
4. The Chair circulates the proposal to the department for approval; once that approval is given, the student will be notified to enroll in the course.

Timelines:

In general, students need to start this process about a term before the course begins (in winter or spring term prior to the academic year in which the course will be taken).

Please note that it is extremely unusual for a student to be enrolled in more than one of these courses, or to be enrolled in a 4F99 course and an ENGL/WRDS 4P98/4P99.