

Spring 2010  
Mesa Honors Contract



*The student is responsible for returning  
the completed Honors Contract by*

***February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010***

*and Honors Syllabus and Regular Course Syllabus by*

***Thursday, FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 12:00 PM***

***To the Honors Office G-301, Tracey Walker G-337 or Joe Safdie, G-338***

## **HONORS CONTRACT- Instructions**

### **WHAT IS AN HONORS CONTRACT?**

An Honors Contract is a signed agreement between a professor and a student in a regular (non-honors) section concerning a mutually designed and enhanced experience of the course curriculum. The agreement specifies honors level objectives and tasks to be completed by the student in addition to the objectives of the regular class. Unit credit remains the same as for a regular class. An honors contract enriches a non-honors class by establishing an intensive course of study for a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

An honors contract opens the door to countless possibilities:

Explore a subject in greater depth

- Earn an honors transcription designation
- Become eligible for honors specific *\$cholarships*
- Enjoy off-campus resources and events like the *San Diego Symphony – free!*
- Fulfill requirements for special honors transfer agreements

### **HOW DO I INITIATE AN HONORS CONTRACT?**

You the student are responsible for the following steps:

- First:** Apply online to the Honors Program at [www.sdmesa.edu/honors](http://www.sdmesa.edu/honors). (This includes returning students.)
- Second:** Come to an agreement with your professor to do an honors contract together.
- Third:** Complete and sign the honors contract agreement and turn in to RM G-301, G-337 or G-338 by **February 4, 2010**.
- Fourth:** Create an honors addendum with your professor agreeing to all additional work that must span the semester.
- Fifth:** Turn in the following documents by **February 18, 2010** to room G301, G337 or G338:
  - A copy of the ORIGINAL course syllabus.
  - A copy of the Honors Addendum or revised course syllabus.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

**General Questions:** Honors Office, G301, 388-2341, [mhonors@sdccd.edu](mailto:mhonors@sdccd.edu).

**Professor Tracey Walker:** Honors Program Coordinator, G337, 388-2313, [twalker@sdccd.edu](mailto:twalker@sdccd.edu)

**Professor Joe Safdie:** Honors Program Coordinator, G338, 388-2332, [jsafdie@sdccd.edu](mailto:jsafdie@sdccd.edu)

**Dr. Alison Primoza:** Honors Transfer Coordinator: G239, 388-2351, [aprimoza@sdccd.net](mailto:aprimoza@sdccd.net)

**Naomi Grisham:** Honors Counselor: 388-2473, [ngrisham@sdccd.edu](mailto:ngrisham@sdccd.edu)

**Honors Program Website:** <http://www.sdmesa.edu/honors>

# MESA HONORS CONTRACT AGREEMENT- Spring 2010

Once this agreement is submitted and processed, you will be dropped from your current course and added to an Honors course with a new CRN. This will be changed in Reg-e and designated on your transcripts. **(Note: This change is final. Students may not be reinstated to the non-honors section after the add/drop deadline. In addition, students may not convert short-term or online courses to honors.)**

Original Course number and title:	
Original Course CRN:	
Professor: (Last name, First name)	
Professor's E-mail Address:	
Campus (Mesa):	
Class Meeting time and room #:	

**Student Information: Please note: Incomplete contracts will NOT be processed. ALL information is required!**

(Print Clearly)

Name	Signature		
Student ID	E-mail/ Phone #		
Mailing Address: Street:	Apt. #:		City:
State:	Zip:		
1 <sup>st</sup> time Honors Student? Yes No	Are you interested in joining Honors club or affiliate Honors clubs? Yes No		
I, Professor _____ agree to work with the above student with their honors coursework. I will agree on an honors syllabus with the student and grade additional honors coursework, incorporating it into the students final grade.			
<b>PROFESSOR'S SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>	

**Deadline for this contract is February 4<sup>th</sup>; deadline for new addendums is February 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY – DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

Honors Coordinator Signature	Date	Verified: _____ Recorded: _____ CRN Req: _____ Drop/Add: _____	<b>New Honors CRN</b>
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## HONORS LEVEL ATTRIBUTES

- As a general guideline, students may anticipate investing 25% more in-depth work while earning honors credit.
- This specific contract commits professor and student to realizing the aforementioned goals and achieving the objectives set out in a new honors syllabus.
- The goal of this contract is to stimulate and enrich the academic experience for both faculty and students. The contract will incorporate a number of the following honors attributes (in relation to non-honors courses).

**Professor and Students: Honors contracts should incorporate at least 5 of the following elements in the honors addendum. Here are some recommendations:**

- higher degree of student participation and involvement in the class
- higher standards of performance than expected of regular students
- more advanced supplemental reading, especially of primary sources
- more opportunities for writing, and at a higher standard
- more opportunities for student presentations to class or campus audiences
- stronger enhancement of skills in critical thinking, analysis and interpretation
- greater depth and/or breadth of subject matter, especially requiring synthesis of different perspectives or points of view
- more opportunities for research, particularly when student-conceived
- use of resources or consultants from beyond the campus itself, such as university libraries or interactions with business or industry personnel
- opportunities for publication or public presentation of work
- integration of concepts and information from a variety of sources and experiences, particularly in cross- or interdisciplinary contexts
- community-based experiences: field trips, interviews, cultural events
- leadership in the classroom: leading study groups, leading class discussion, assisting faculty in preparation and delivery of instructional material
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Do not submit this page with the contract.

## HONORS SYLLABUS

Dear Student:

Work with your professor to develop an honors syllabus for your course. Feel free to use this form as a template and refer to the following attached samples to create an honors addendum for your course. Please be as specific as possible when describing honors projects and assignments (e.g.: number of outside sources, number of pages required, etc.)

### Honors assignments and projects:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ due: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ due: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ due: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ due: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grading:

**Regular course** requirements (assignments, tests, etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_

**Honors** contract requirements:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ %: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: **100%**

Additional samples are available from The Honors Program office G 301 or your campus honors coordinators: Tracey Walker, G-337 (388-2313) and Joe Safdie, G-338 (388-2332)

**EXAMPLE: HONORS SYLLABUS**

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM  
HONORS CONTRACT FOR SPRING 2010**

**Humanities 104:** Introduction to the Old Testament **Professor:** Sondra Frisch **Units:** 3.0

**TASKS:** In addition to satisfying the usual requirements of the regular Humanities 104 course, the Honors contract student will complete the following and more critically challenging tasks. (For more specifics, please see the attached syllabus.)

1. Read the following additional texts and / or others that may be assigned by the instructor:  
Friedman, Richard. *Who Wrote the Bible?*  
Graves Robert and Paphael Patai. *Hebrew Myths.*
2. Write an analytical / critical paper of eight to ten pages, dealing with an appropriate topic, chosen by the student, and approved by the instructor, incorporating scholarly notation.
3. Give an oral report of approximately ten minutes, dealing with an aspect of the paper OR of one the additional readings.
4. Write a three to five page critique of any scholarly video that deals with an Old Testament subject. Videos at Mesa's AV library may be used.
5. Meet with the instructor at least 6 times during the semester, to discuss the direction and progress of the student's work on the Honors projects: major paper, oral report, video critique.

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of the course the student, in accomplishing the above tasks, will be able to:

1. demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of other cultures' contributions and similarities to the Old Testament culture;
2. demonstrate knowledge of the development and structure of the Old Testament text;
3. demonstrate knowledge and evaluation of current Biblical scholarship and criticism, including feminist studies;
4. demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills in his/ her written work as well as in oral articulation;

**HONORS GRADING CRITERIA:**

Journal	20%
Pop quizzes / exercises	20%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	20%
Analytical /critical paper	15%
Oral report	5%
Video Critique	5%

## **Sample Honors Addendum**

### **PROPOSED ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK FOR GEOLOGY 100 HONORS CONTRACT**

**Student:**

**Instructor: Don Barrie, Assistant Professor of Geology, San Diego Mesa College**

In addition to the material outlined in the regular course syllabus, the student proposes to complete three independent field trips as briefly described below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Following each field trip, the student shall submit to the instructor a detailed paper in accordance with the requirements listed below:

#### **Paper Format & Content:**

- Each paper shall be a minimum of 4 double-spaced, typed pages (1-inch margins), not including figures and photos.
- Each paper shall summarize the applicable field observations for each field trip, and shall tie these observations into applicable material from the lecture course.
- Each paper shall contain a reference section and an appendix with xerox copies of actual field notes.
- Each paper shall consist of four sections, including: (1) an Introduction, which describes the date and time of the field trip, the field trip location, weather conditions, and overall objectives of the field trip; (2) a Trip Description, which describes applicable field observations and introduces sketches and photographs; (3) a Discussion section, which highlights the geologic significance of the field observations noted in the Trip Description section (for this section, the student may include references to course lecture notes, the course textbook, field trip guidebooks used, and other references), and (4), a Conclusions section, which presents the student's conclusions regarding the overall effectiveness of the field trip as a learning exercise.
- Each paper shall contain several sketches (recopied from field notes) and 4" by 6" photographs.
- Each photograph shall be assigned a figure number and a title. The view direction of the photograph shall be included in the photograph title.

- A small object (car keys, pencil, or lens cap) shall be included in close-up photographs for scale. For area-wide photos, a statement of the field of view shall be added (e.g., field of view, approx. 25 meters).

**Due Dates:**

The due dates for each field trip are as follows:

Field Trip #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Field Trip #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grading Criteria for Papers:**

The instructor shall assign a maximum of 54 points for each paper, based on the following criteria:

- 1) Was the paper written in accordance with the formal requirements listed above (10 pts, max.)?
- 2) Was the paper generally well written, free of typos and grammatical errors, and was adequate attention to detail given in producing the paper (e.g., was the typing clear and crisp? Were sketches and photographs centered on the page?) (10 pts, max)?
- 3) Did the student demonstrate an ability to make original observations of geologic phenomena (20 pts, max)?
- 4) Did the student demonstrate an ability to draw scientific conclusions from basic geologic observations (14 pts, max)?

**Revised Grading Scheme:**

Exams*	350 pts
Regular Homework Assignments*	75 pts
Regular Field Trip or Alt. Assign	25 pts
In Class Exercises*	40 pts
Field Trip Papers (3)	162 pts (approx. 25% of total pts)
<b>Total possible 652 pts</b>	

*\*See regular course syllabus for details*

**Course Grade Assignment**

Following completion of the coursework outlined in the course syllabus and in this proposal, the student shall be assigned a letter grade as follows:

100-90% of total points = A;    87 - 78% of total points = B;    77 - 65% of total points = C  
 64 - 55% of total points = D;    <55% of total points = F