SUNY Cortland Honors Program Honors Contract Course Guidelines

The purpose of a contract course is to provide a student with an enriched honors level experience in the context of a non-honors course. Since the Honors Program offers lower division honors level, General Education courses, a contract course should be an upper division course (300 level or higher) taken in the major or minor. Students may elect to take a departmental independent study course as a contract course; this is especially appropriate if the independent study relates to research being done as part of the Senior Honors Thesis.

The effort associated with the supplemental work should be significant. The student must describe how the proposed work exceeds the standard course requirements and constitutes an Honors experience. Appropriate supplemental assignments may include

* additional reading and writing assignments,
* independent study or research related to the student’s Senior Honors Thesis,
* presentation of research related to the learning objectives of the course performed independently under the professor’s guidance such as Transformations Poster or Talk, a Sandwich Seminar, or an in-class presentation,
* a service learning experience related to the learning objectives of the course,
* substantial faculty-student conference time outside the classroom,
* practica related to the learning objectives of the course, such as tutoring or working as a teaching assistant,

*and/or*

* involvement in special events such as travel, lectures, performances, or other creative activity related to the learning objectives of the course, and which include a formal report of these activities to the course instructor.

**Supplemental work completed for contract credit fulfills the requirements for awarding Honors credit only. It does not constitute “extra credit” applied toward the course grade.** The student must earn at least a “B” for the course and do at least “B” level supplemental work for the course to be awarded honors credit.

The attached form describing how the proposed work constitutes an honors experience must be submitted to the Honors Program Office (Old Main 122) no later than the end of 2nd week of classes (student should go ahead and register for the contract course before **the last day of drop add,** but the Honors Program does not need the contract course right away**).** To receive honors credit for a contract course, the Completed Contract Course Form must be submitted to the Honors Program Office no later than the **last day of classes**.