

HONORS BY EXHIBITION, EMBEDDED HONORS, SAMPLE HONORS CONTRACT

HONORS BY EXHIBITION --- One Example (Bow High School in New Hampshire)

Our intention at Bow High School is to challenge each student academically. Some students, however, may wish to challenge themselves beyond the general curriculum requirements. For these students, Bow High School will offer an honors option.

Students may choose to complete an honors option in any course not designated Advanced Placement. Upon successful completion of honors option requirements, students will receive an honors designation on their academic records.

Students selecting the honors option must complete the following requirements:

- 1. develop an honors option plan with the classroom teacher, detailing a timeline of activities the student will engage in throughout the semester and as part of their honors option requirement;
- 2. Students and teachers will select one or more activities to complete from the following list: a. selected readings, b. interdisciplinary projects, c. problem-solving or inquiry-based projects, d. development and/or public presentation of one's work and/or e. in-depth and expanded study of specific curricular areas;
- 3. complete a learning journal of outside reading assignments and other learning activities associated with the honors option;
- 4. demonstrate leadership qualities in the classroom;
- 5. demonstrate self-direction and motivation as a learner, as well as exemplary work habits;
- 6. demonstrate mastery of fundamental concepts; and 7. complete a self-evaluation.

Process for Selecting the Honors Option

- Students interested in the honors option should meet with teachers within the first two weeks of the start of the semester to develop their honors option plan. At that time, students will discuss specific requirements, ideas, and a timeline with their instructors. Students should continue to meet with their teachers a minimum of four times throughout the semester to keep teachers informed of progress.
- Students may choose at any time, to terminate their honors option study. Termination will have no impact on course grades; students will simply not receive the honors designation on their academic records. A panel of two or more teachers will meet to evaluate and assess students' progress and honors option requirements. The panel of

teachers will determine whether students have successfully completed the honors option requirements initially outlined in the original plan.

An example of **embedded honors** follows:

This year all American Studies teams will offer an embedded Honors option. The purpose of embedded Honors is not to "add on" to the already-challenging American Studies course work and expectations, but to encourage those students who wish to go above and beyond the requirements to challenge themselves in multiple areas. The structure of embedded Honors is designed to help students develop their ability to monitor, reflect on, and document their own learning.

Embedded AS Honors overview:

1. Students will need to demonstrate Honors achievement in 4 of the 6 categories outlined on the AS Embedded Honors Rubric. The Writing and Classwork categories are required. The student will prove his or her achievement in those two categories as well as at least two other categories of his/her choosing.
2. All Honors students will write and submit a two-page reflection at the end of each semester that will provide evidence for having met the Honors criteria in 4 categories. He or she should submit attached evidence--graded tutorials, assignments, etc.--with the two-page reflection. The American Studies teachers will review and evaluate the student's reflection paper and evidence to determine if the student has met the Honors criteria.

Students who wish to pursue this Honors option will take the following steps:

1. Review the Honors standards as outlined in the AS Embedded Honors Rubric and the Literature Analysis writing rubric. (The Historical Analysis writing rubric will be released before the second tutorial, the history tutorial, is assigned.) The two writing rubrics will be similar, but are intended to assess the different skills required by literary and historical analytical writing.
2. Notify their American Studies teachers in writing of their intent to pursue the Honors option fall semester by turning in a complete Letter of Intent.
3. Monitor their progress and development in American Studies. Challenge themselves to extend their ideas beyond the classroom walls; strive to build on their academic strengths and to address their academic weaknesses; take on projects, such as History Day, that are meaningful to them and that relate to American Studies; contribute positively to the classroom community.
4. Meet with their American Studies team teachers at or before midterms to discuss their progress so far and to affirm their desire to continue pursuing the Honors option.
5. Maintain a B+ or above in American Studies. Students who earn below a B+ at the end of the semester will not be eligible for the "H" designation even if they have fulfilled other Honors

requirements, such as the 2-page reflection paper.

6. Submit a 2-page reflection paper at the end of the semester that clearly, thoroughly, and convincingly communicates to the American Studies teachers how he/she progressed throughout the semester and met the Honors criteria in the two required categories as well as at least two other categories

The purpose of embedded Honors is not to "add on" to the already-challenging American Studies course work and expectations, but to encourage those students who wish to go above and beyond the requirements to challenge themselves in multiple areas.

The following are the requirements for Honors:

Earn a B+ or above in American Studies for the semester. Students who earn below a B+ at the end of the semester will not be eligible for the "H" designation even if they have fulfilled other Honors requirements.

Meet expectations for honors in writing, which means at a minimum earning an A- on one of your semester tutorials while "exceeding the standard" in the area of ideas (as defined on the tutorial scoring rubric).

Meet the expectations for honors in class participation/leadership, which means: In small group work, being actively involved in group activities, helping the group accomplish the objectives involved, and being a positive, supportive member of group discussions and work who is respectful of the views of others. Also, take the initiative to work with a wide range of students, not just your friends. In whole class discussions, a successful candidate for Honors in American Studies is actively involved, asking questions and sharing ideas, which advance the discussion and doing so in a way that is respectful of the views of others. In whole-class activities, a successful candidate for Honors in American Studies is focused on the class activity, taking notes during lectures, paying attention during films and discussions and refraining from excessive talking or anything that distracts from their own learning and the learning of others.

Meet the honors standard in at least two of the remaining four categories: *Projects/work outside and beyond the class – In classroom projects (group or individual), going beyond what is expected; outside the classroom, taking advantage of opportunities available in the community to enhance your understanding of what is being studied in class. *Homework – Routinely going beyond the requirements of the assignments, enriching his/her understanding with other texts that go beyond the required reading; creatively connecting the class to outside experiences. *Metacognition – Regularly making insightful comments and unexpected connections in written work and class discussions, enriching both with knowledge from outside the class. *Oral finals - The student expresses himself/herself fluently, with precise, appropriate and high impact words; displays deep knowledge of the topic, as

well as creative and original thinking; makes insightful connections to other American Studies concepts or content outside the question.

Submit a 2-page reflection paper at the end of the semester that clearly and thoroughly communicates to the American Studies teachers how he/she progressed throughout the semester and met the Honors criteria in the two required categories as well as at least two other categories. Attach evidence to support attainment of honors in writing (particularly at least one of your two tutorials).

American Studies Honors Application

Fall Semester, 2012

If you are interested in pursuing Honors for this semester, you should complete the following form and return it to your American Studies team by Friday, September 28th and then meet with your team teachers by Friday, October 26th. You are under no obligation to complete Honors once you submit this document.

Step One: Complete and sign checklist below and turn in this form.

I have read the American Studies Honors Option Overview (reverse side) and I understand it.

I understand it is BHS policy that students must earn a B+ or above in order to receive Honors credit.

I have reflected on my workload and priorities and feel this is an appropriate personal challenge.

Student's Signature and Printed Name

Step Two: Meet with team teachers for progress meeting by Friday, October 26th.

Summary of meeting:

Student's Signature

Teachers' Signatures

A SAMPLE HONORS CONTRACT

South Medford High School

Medford School District
Medford, Oregon

Freshman Academy Open Honors Contract

By reading and signing this contract, it is a sign of acceptance and agreement with the academic and behavioral expectations required for the designation of “honors” in this course of study.

Academic Expectations

Honors students will show maturity and integrity in their work by

working with academic honesty - citing sources and avoiding plagiarism when necessary, working independently from the teacher, staying on task to complete their work in a timely manner
maintaining a high level of academics within the class
maintaining a portfolio of completed work as evidence of work quality
maintaining a minimum grade of B (80%) to attain honors designation

Assignments will be handled in the following manner: They will be...

completed and turned in on time. Late work will be assigned less credit as outlined in the Student Handbook for SMHS.
written in ink and formatted in the style shown in Connections and English 1 classes
completed using the writing process, including a rough draft with a final copy for writing assignments
scored according to the state and district writing rubric, with honors work striving for a level of 5 on that rubric
a mixture of the regular class work and specific projects. Honors students have the option of doing assignments in an individualized manner as befits their learning style and academic capabilities with prior approval from the instructor.

Behavioral Expectations

Honors students are able to work in a mature and independent manner, whether in the classroom or working outside of the classroom. They will continue and maintain a positive and productive working relationship with peers within the classroom setting according to classroom expectations, but they will also be able to work outside of the classroom when necessary in a manner following school rules and expectations.

Honors students will independently check for missing work after an absence and double check with the teacher for instructions regarding that work.

Honors students are expected to participate in discussions, to be actively involved in group work, and to be a leader within the combined level classroom.

Honors students will keep a portfolio of their work and will periodically write a persuasive paper explaining why they should earn honors designation based on specific work samples.

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected. If an absence is planned, students are expected to communicate this to their teacher in advance to get information on assignments or activities.