

About Applying for the Senior Tutorial for Fall 2004

Applications for Senior Tutorials for Fall 2004 were due March 25, 2003 and the tutorial assignments made during the week of April 9.

If you now need to apply late for a Fall 2004 Senior Tutorial, please read this document. Use the application form on the Website, submit your application to Phyllis Gorfain in hard copy in her mailbox, and we will consider your application. She can get your transcript through the registrar, so you do not need to supply your transcript.

Once we receive your application, you will be put on a waitlist, and we will inform you if an opening occurs. Either we will find an open slot in our present tutorial sections or we may create a new section to accommodate latecomers (if enough people materialize to justify a new section).

Please also indicate on your application why you need to take the Senior Tutorial in the fall and what problems you might have if you had to defer it until Spring 2005.

The Senior Tutorial is required to complete the English major for any senior who declared the major under the new requirements, instituted in the spring semester of 2003. If you declared your major under the old requirements, prior to Spring 2003, the Senior Tutorial is optional for your major.

You may take the tutorial in either semester of your senior year. However, please note: **if you wish to do honors, you need to take the tutorial in the semester before the final semester (when you would do your honors project).** You will read more about honors later in this document.

The Senior Tutorial places a small number of students with a professor for a semester of small-group and individual work. Professors will supervise the tutorials with different pedagogical strategies, but, as a rule, the tutorial will involve both work in a small group (readings in common, discussions, workshops on student work) and directed individual work on reading, plans, and drafts leading to substantive 20-page paper due at the close of the semester.

Tutorials will be normally taken for four hours of credit, but may be taken for variable credit, from 2-4 hours, to accommodate serious schedule difficulties (e.g. problems with the 84 hour rule, part-time students, or the like), but everyone enrolled will be expected to do the same amount of work.

Not all department faculty teach the Senior Tutorial in any given semester. Those who do offer tutorials will be accepting a limited number of students (usually 9). We therefore ask you to be flexible about the areas of interest you indicate on your application and in the semester you elect to take the Senior Tutorial.

So that you can fashion a plan that the faculty can supervise, here are the names and areas of expertise of (some of) the faculty who will be teaching tutorials in Fall 2004 (We may be adding more faculty if needed). Depending on numbers of applicants, not all of these faculty may be teaching tutorials, so please propose projects that more than one professor might oversee.

Phyllis Gorfain:

Shakespeare, Poetry, 16-17th literature, drama in many traditions, folklore and related topics, feminisms, many women writers, including a number of African-American women writers, theories related to ritual, play, games, performativity, performance,

Anuradha Needham:

Postcolonial and/or third world theory,

feminisms, literary works; post structuralist theory and cultural studies (though each of us comes up with a slightly different version of what this might mean); colonial discourse/study of empire; some eighteenth and a number of nineteenth-century texts, including Romantic poetry; I also am familiar with various contemporary discussions on race and minority formations, including texts like Morrison's *Beloved* and some other contemporary African American literature

Jeff Pence:

Most areas of modern and contemporary cultural studies, especially fiction, cinema, critical theory, technology and popular culture

Pat Day: 1

19th-20th c. prose and poetry; popular culture; film; literary theory

In your application, please indicate **AT LEAST THREE** different possible areas of study you could undertake. The areas can address particular subjects or genres (e.g. American nature poetry), authors, texts, critical questions (e.g., feminist debates about Charlotte Perkins Gilman), or literary issues (e.g. classic theories of metaphor or postmodern critiques of narrative). These do not need to be fully worked-out paper topics (and really shouldn't be). We do, however, need to know your general areas of interest in order to place you with an appropriate teacher. We also encourage you to propose areas in which you've already worked, so that you have a solid foundation for independent study and writing. Please try to formulate topics that these professors can help you with!

Please indicate in your application whether you are interested in Honors, and if, therefore, you need to take the Senior Tutorial in any particular semester.

As you consider your application you may benefit from a consultation with your advisor, or with Nick Jones, department chair, or with Phyllis Gorfain, the chair of the Senior Tutorial and Honors committee in English.

Here are a few remarks about Honors in English. Toward the end of the Senior Tutorial semester, students may nominate themselves to be considered for Honors, for their final semester, by submitting a proposal for an honors project. In any one semester, we will then accept the top 10-12 proposals. We expect an honors project to grow out of the Senior Tutorial project, taking it in a new direction. The honors project could also simply further develop, extend, or deepen the Senior Tutorial project in some significant way. Either type of project (including a creative writing emphasis) will culminate in an Honors paper of about 35 pages. The goal for Honors work will be to achieve a greater degree of depth or breadth of intellectual work than was possible in the Tutorial project, to extend the student's critical or writing sophistication, and to demonstrate intellectual or creative excellence.

Students will be chosen for Honors on the basis of the quality of their Senior Tutorial work, recommendations from their Senior Tutorial professor, and/or from other professors in the department, their GPA's both in the major and the college, and on the availability of a professor to supervise the proposed Honors project. Like the Senior Tutorial, Honors may be taken for variable credit, 2-4 hours.