

University Honors Program

Honors Contract Topics and Final Product Examples

UHP's intention is that Honors Contract assignments supplement, and not replace, work required in the original course. Students and instructors are encouraged to be creative in developing a contract topic and final product. Below are some examples of previous UHP students' contract topics and final products presented to their instructors for evaluation. These are provided to give you some idea of the types of projects students have done in the past. It is up to each student to work with her or his instructor to come up with the most appropriate topic and final product for the individual situation.

Course: AAS 145A, Black Social and Political Thought

Contract Title: Black Feminism

Final Product: 9 page paper on the issue of African-American female social and political thought from the beginning of slavery until the present day.

Course: ANS 142, Companion Animal Care and Management

Contract Title: A Cross-Departmental Network of Animal Research

Final Product: A handout consisting of information regarding current research projects by professors in various departments affiliated with animals.

Course: ANT 139BN, Gender and Sexuality

Contract Title: Women and adventure sports

Final Product: Present a power presentation about the role of women in adventure sports since the 1950's. Based on interviews with about 20 women as well as scientific studies about women and athleticism from the late 1950's to the present.

Course: ANT 151, Primate Evolution

Contract Title: Primate and Us

Final Product A children's book about primate and human evolution

Course: ANT 152, Human Evolution

Contract Title: Homo Neanderthalensis

Final Product: Multi-page website detailing the hominid species Homo neanderthalensis, using a graphical approach and designed to help anthropology students studying human evolution.

Course: CHE 107A, Physical Chemistry for the Life Sciences

Contract Title: Physical Chemistry Contract Titles for the ChemWiki Project

Final Product: 5 Articles (Modules) covering physical chemistry Contract Titles to be posted on the ChemWiki (<http://chemwiki.ucdavis.edu>). See <http://www.chemwiki.ucdavis.edu/User:Krmalley>.

Course: CHE 118C, Organic Chemistry

Contract Title: Updating the Lab Component of 118C

Final Product: Update the Lab component of CHE 118 C, based on analysis of student feedback regarding types of desired experiments and activities.

Course: COM 135, Women Writers

Contract Title: Comparison between historical women writers

Final Product: A magazine with nine different articles, each relating to the comparison of important women writers throughout history.

Course: EEC 130B, Electromagnetics

Contract Title: Microwave Oven Leak Detector

Final Product: Creation of a device capable of detecting microwave radiation and a technical report describing the project and its findings.

Course: ENG 103, Fluid Mechanics

Contract Title: Nanoparticle-induced pH changes in vascular endothelial cells

Final Product: Professional Research Lab Report and Lab notebook

Course: ENL 100P, Creative Writing: Poetry

Contract Title: Series of Poems Inspired by Themselves

Final Product: A 10 page portfolio containing 6 poems, each poem containing a line from the poem previous to it, the first containing a line from an outside source.

Course: GEL 107, Paleobiology

Contract Title: 3 D Model of a Fossil Specimen

Final Product: Creation of a 3-dimensional model and a short description of a fossil specimen.

Course: HIS 102M, Conspiracy Theories in the United States

Contract Title: Holocaust Denial

Final Product: PowerPoint Presentation given in class.

Course: HIS 167, Latin American Culture

Contract Title: Jamaican Slaves to Costa Rican Banana Plantation Workers

Final Product: 7 page research paper about the lives of laborers who worked on Jamaican slave plantations and then, after emancipation, migrated to Costa Rica to work for the United Fruit Company on banana plantations.

Course: IDI 141, Infectious Diseases

Contract Title: Encounters with the Microbial World: Information for Traveling Students about Infectious Diseases.

Final Product: Creation of a website which includes information about infectious diseases for the benefit of students who will be traveling abroad.

Course: MCB 121, Molecular Biology of Eukaryotic Cells

Contract Title: Restriction Enzymes: Their Origin, Function and roles in Genetic Engineering

Final Product: A lesson plan for a 9th grade biology class with accompanying activity material and relevant sources.

Course: NPB 101, Systemic Physiology

Contract Title: The Physiology of Stress

Final Product: An educational, community-health oriented pamphlet describing the physiological actions of chronic stress on the human body; environmental, social, and socioeconomic factors leading to chronic stress; and strategies for stress mitigation at the individual level.

Course: NPB 101, Systemic Physiology

Contract Title: Systemic Physiology Study Game

Final Product: Creation of a 3 ft by 2 ft game board depicting numerous physiological NPB 101 subjects for the purpose of studying.

Course: NUT 293A, Current Topics in Nutrition: Obesity

Contract Title: Bridging Blogosphere to Classroom

Final Product: A developed blog with at least 9 posts that bring the insight gained from reading science papers in class to a young college audience. Comment at least 7 times on similar blogs on the internet using the analytical perspective gained from class.

Course: PSC 100, Cognitive Psychology

Contract Title: Cognitive Creativity

Final Product: 80 minute lecture on creativity to a class of PSC 140 students.

Course: PSC 151, Social Psychology

Contract Title: The Nature of Our Views on Autism

Final Product: Creation of a survey on opinions of Autism and an analysis of returned surveys that were e-mailed to UHP students.

Course: RUS 151, Censorship

Contract Title: Biography of Vladimir Lenin

Final Product: 5 page paper describing the life of Vladimir Lenin and his effect of censorship on Russia.

Course: SOC 135, Social Relationships

Contract Title: Online Communities: A new way to socialize

Final Product: 6-8 page paper on the results of an exploratory study of Instant Messaging programs and friendships.

Course: STA 120, Probability for Engineers

Contract Title: Probability Simulations

Final Product: Website linking to java applets that illustrate probability concepts. The website included detailed explanation and instructions on how to use each java applet.

Course: STA 102, Intro to Statistics

Contract Title: A Report on the failure of two presidential polls

Final Product: A podcast/radio show describing how and why the Literary Digest Poll of 1936 and the Gallup poll of 1948 failed so catastrophically.

Course: TXC 107, Social and Psychological Aspects of Clothing

Contract Title: The Social Psychology of Provocative Clothing

Final Product: A fashion magazine. Student designed the cover and fashion ads. Student also wrote a letter from the editor and four articles: 1. provocative Halloween costumes, 2. clothing as a factor in rape, 3. mother's concern for her daughter's clothing and its impact on her future, and 4. the male perspective on provocative clothing.

Course: TXC 107, Social Psychological Aspects of Clothing

Contract Title: Social and Psychological Influences of Body Images

Final Product: A 5-7 minute video montage with personal interviews and video footage from the media to display the various issues surrounding the development of self-esteem.