



UHP Student-Instructor Contract to Earn Honors Credit for a Course

Use this template to create an Honors Contract.

Please go to isu.edu/honors/contract for learn more about Honors contract policies and procedures; example Honors Contracts, and other Honors Contract information.

Semester: XXXX

Student Name & Email: XXXX

Course Information (subject, number, and title) & CRN: Microbiology, BIOL 2221, XXXX

Course Instructor Name & Email: XXXX

Department Chair Name & Email: XXXX

A. Honors Course Requirements

Specify how Honors course requirements will differ from the general course requirements. These requirements may include but are not limited to: independent research, collaborative projects, service learning, outreach programming, leadership training, alternative media development, professional or technical applications, student teaching and mentoring, and the enhancement of critical, synthetic, comparative, interdisciplinary, or creative thinking.

- The assignment I will be completing in order to obtain honors credit for this course is a singular intensive research project. This project will be an experiment wherein I gather various observations in an attempt to answer the following question: Do musical instruments harbor pathogens?

B. Description of Honors Coursework

Provide a description of Honors assignments, testing, or performance criteria. Note that Honors coursework should focus on different or alternative work, not simply "extra" work. (Note: an Honors contract does not excuse the student from any of the normal assignments or expectations of the course.)

- Many musicians encounter several potentially harmful molds and other microorganisms on a daily basis due to the mechanics of wind instruments, unsanitary instrument care or cleaning procedures, and shared or community instruments—for example, community pianos that are never cleaned, or shared brass instruments that allow for mixing of saliva. To begin this project, I will heavily research the types of pathogens that could potentially inhabit musical instruments, and from this research form a hypothesis that addresses the potential for various types of pathogens and other microorganisms to grow inside/on

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StudentLastName_InstructorLastName_Course_HonorsContract (example:

Bengal_Euclid_MATH1175_HonorsContract). Then, upload it, along with a PDF of the course syllabus, to the online submission form on the Honors website, isu.edu/honors/contract.



musical instruments. For the experimental portion, a series of different instruments from the ISU music department (with which I am heavily involved) will be swabbed and cultures grown on nutrient agar plates in the microbiology lab to identify various different types of bacteria (and possibly other microorganisms) that could possibly be inhabiting these instruments. After a seventy-two-hour 25C incubation period*, the nutrient agar plates will be removed from the incubator to allow for examination and identification. The plates will then be analyzed using a variety of methods, including microscopy. Once the organisms have been successfully identified, I will gather all the data and submit a conclusion that attempts to answer the essential question.

C. Accountability

Please include expectations of the how the Honors student verifies that they are meeting the expectations for their Honors assignment(s). For example, how often the student is required/expected to meet with the instructor; due dates for drafts and final version of projects; or other parameters. The University Honors Program strongly encourages a minimum of one check-in session with feedback from the faculty member by mid-term week.

- Dr. XXXX and I will meet every other week to check in about methods, data collection, and results. The majority of the data collection will be completed during spring break, when I will have additional access to the instruments for swabbing and the analytical laboratory. I will present my results to Dr. XXXX at the end of spring break. A final written report will be submitted the week before finals.

D. Final Grade Calculation

Specify how the Honors coursework will be integrated into the final grade. For example, Honors coursework can be assigned an additional specific number of points or percentage of the final grade.

- The Honors contract work will not be incorporated into my grade. It will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis for the Honors credit.

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