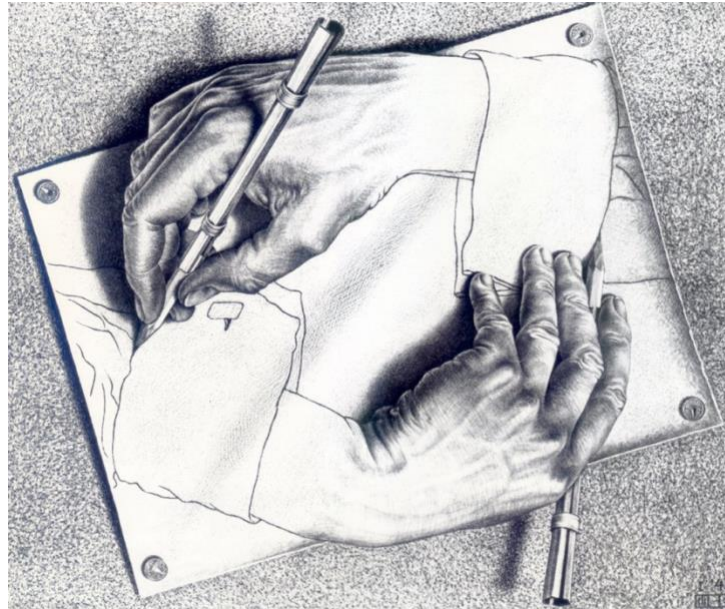


Office Hours: by appointment
karen.jacobs@colorado.edu

Professor Karen Jacobs
Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:15

Fall 2025: ENGL 4820-880
Honors Seminar: How to Research and Write a Senior Honors Thesis



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar is designed to help you write an honors thesis that is well researched, historically and theoretically grounded, and responsive to critical trends that have informed your particular topic. It will focus on sharpening the skills needed to write a successful thesis, including research, the formulation of an argument, revision, and the ability to summarize and evaluate secondary materials. This class is necessarily a cooperative one and will provide you with a weekly forum in which to exchange ideas and share work with your peers. You and your thesis projects will generate the primary materials and topics for this class. As a result, your participation, engagement, and commitment are of paramount importance. Because we will be working together to solve problems and develop ideas, your attendance is crucial.

The course is designed with one primary idea in mind: to guide you through the various stages of writing an original, senior-level research project, and to help you develop the skills you will need to defend it successfully. Everyone will independently develop (with guidance from me and your peers) your own thesis topic. Throughout the semester you will be honing your close reading and critical thinking skills; in addition, you will be familiarizing yourself with the relevant bibliographies in your field and will learn how to track down criticism, evaluate it, and apply it to your topic.

In short: this seminar will function as a practical workshop for you to exchange ideas with your peers and work together to solve common problems in the preparation of your individual theses. By next semester, you will be well on your way to writing (and defending!) a polished senior thesis.