

Study guide 202-2021

Humanities Honours Programme

In this study guide, written by students for students, you can find all essential information needed to make as much of the Humanities Honours Programme as possible, whether you have just started the programme or are nearly graduated. Besides general information about ECTS credits, yearly overviews and course descriptions, you can also find practical tips regarding your portfolio, finding inspiration and contact info in case you run into any issues.

This guide was written by the students of the Curriculum Committee (Onderwijscommissie, OC) 2019-2020. The sections about the alternatives to Being Good at Humanities are an exception, since these were written for you by students who took these courses previously. In case you have any questions about this guide's content, you can contact the OC. You will find the ways to reach the OC at 'Contact Information'.

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General information

The Humanities Honours Programme (HHP) starts in the second year of your bachelor. During this year, you will complete three Honours courses worth 30 ECTS total. During the second year of the HHP, you receive 15 ECTS more through your Honours thesis. These credits will partially be added on top of your study programme, which means you will graduate with (at least) 195 ECTS instead of 180 ECTS. In the descriptions of the courses below, you will see exactly how many ECTS you will receive and how these will fit into your regular study programme. Are you running into any issues regarding scheduling or your study plan? Be sure to contact your Honours coordinator and/or your bachelor's study advisor. You can also check out the [Onderwijs- en Examenregeling \(OER\)](#) of the Humanities faculty. You can find information about the HHP on page 9.

It could occur that you decide to prematurely end the Honours Programme. To make your decision final, you have to make sure to send an email to humanitieshonours@uu.nl. It is very important to do so, since your registration for other courses will not be cancelled otherwise. It is also important to note that, if you do not finish the programme, you will still need to complete the course in your own bachelor that was replaced by Being Good at Humanities or its alternatives. Contact your study advisor to find out how this is arranged for your study programme.

Working languages Honours courses

Within the HHP, it is important that students learn to verbalise their ideas on complex matters as precisely as possible. This means anyone should be able to communicate, write and present in the language best suited to them. The HHP is a multilingual programme and the working languages are Dutch and/or English. The working language in the tutorials of Honours Explorations and the Honours Thesis is dependent on the (chosen track of the) bachelor and the expertise of both teacher and student.

Students that are not sufficiently familiar with the Dutch language are offered the opportunity to follow the Honours courses in an English tutorial group. Which tutorial group this is, depends on the theme and expertise of the teacher providing the course that year. Students will be informed about this before the start of the academic year. In the year 20-21, English options will be available for Honours Explorations in the domains MCW, TLC, Philosophy, AI and LAS/TCS. For the course Being Good at Humanities (Goed in Geesteswetenschappen, GIG), there will be an extra English group on Tuesdays. As an alternative to GIG, the English Da Vinci Project can be chosen. The Descartes Programme is only offered in Dutch.

Working language extracurricular activities

Students insufficiently familiar with Dutch might not be able to attend all extracurricular activities. In order to promote a multilingual Honours community, we encourage all Honours students to organise activities themselves in English, Dutch or another language. This way, anyone can experience what it is like to have the lingual upper- or underhand in conversation. We encourage you to experiment with Lingua Receptiva for inclusive activities.

Year 1

In the first year of the HHP, which starts in the second year of your bachelor, you follow 3 courses, spread throughout the academic year. During this year, you will first discover your own area of expertise to then broaden your horizon to study the humanities as a whole and subsequently work together with students from different fields of study.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Honours Explorations 7.5 ECTS (Dutch: Terreinverkenning)		Research Seminar 15 ECTS	
	Being Good at Humanities (or alternative) 7.5 ECTS (Dutch: Goed in Geesteswetenschappen)		

The course Honours Explorations takes places in both block 1 and block 2. The course, however, is only worth 7.5 ECTS, 3.75 in block 1 and 3.75 in block 2. On Osiris, you can find Honours Explorations with the course code HHP1V17001 or through [this link](#).

Explorations is divided up into two parts, that coincide with block 1 and 2. You will follow this course along with the other students from your domain, guided by an Honours teacher. Therefore, the exact content of the course differs per domain. Some groups can determine what they will do themselves, some do presentations, others do literature studies – anything is possible.

What *is* certain, is that you'll explore your area of study in block 1. You could dive deeper into subjects you are already familiar with, or broaden your perspective and look into new subjects within your discipline. To give some examples, last year's TLC students worked on the theme "multilingualism", at LAS & TSC the central subject was Big History and at F&R several themes from philosophy and AI were connected. In block 2, you will conduct a research within your study area, either individually or in small groups. Your research should either broaden your academic knowledge, or dig deeper into your own field of study or the societal impact of Humanities. You can also combine multiple of these. This gives you much freedom. You will present your research to all Honours students by means of a poster.

For Explorations, it is important to communicate regularly and clearly with your teacher. Since there is a lot of freedom in this course, it is useful to clearly communicate what is expected of you and which

criteria will be used for assessment. Quite a substantial amount of responsibility will be put on the student for this, especially in the second part, which might be different from the courses you have followed so far. So, be sure to create an action plan for yourself and talk this over with your teacher. Never fret to ask for guidance or advice.

Being Good at Humanities and alternatives

In block 2 there are several courses within the HHP that you can choose. The course Being Good at Humanities is organised by the HHP itself, but besides this one you can follow courses at the Descartes college, take part in the Da Vinci Project or join an alternative course taught by Koen Ottenheim. To relay which one of these courses you opt for, you can answer the email you will receive about this from the HHP.

Regardless of which course you will choose, it will replace one of the courses in your regular study programme. Which one this will be for you, you can find over [here](#). In case you would still like to follow this course, you could possibly take it as an elective. You can contact your study advisor about this.

Below you will find descriptions of all courses. The section about Being Good at Humanities was written by the OC, the others were written by students who followed the courses in the year 2019-2020.

Being Good at Humanities

In block 2 you will follow the course Being Good at Humanities. It is worth 7.5 ECTS and can be found with the code HHP2V17001 and through [this link](#). For this course, you will attend two lectures per week, which have taken place on Monday and Tuesday evenings the last few years. Keep this in mind, since attendance is obligatory.

During Being Good at Humanities you will research what a good humanities scholar is, using seven competences as guidance, each one discussed by lecturer Frits van Oostrom. He has a big heart for the humanities and this course, which is definitely noticeable during the lectures. Questions and substantive discussions are therefore certainly appreciated.

The course does take some preparation: every week you will be required to read or watch some piece. Often these are articles from newspapers or videos about a certain humanities academic. Frits has collected interesting humanities content from many different sources. The preparation is therefore often academically broadening and enticing. If you are interested, you can visit the special [site](#) Frits uses to collect extra material. The effort that is required of you each week differs quite a bit, so make sure you check what is expected of you on time. Additionally, each student writes a week book each week, in which you will reflect on the lectures of the past week. This does not have to be extremely extensive and thus does not take up substantive amounts of time, but it is a weekly effort. You can see it as an opportunity to further explicate your opinion and knowledge on a certain discussed subject.

Your final grade will be based on several factors: your week books, a paper and the oral exam. In this oral exam, you will reflect on the course together with Frits and discuss the feedback on your paper, week books and other interesting subjects together.

It could occur that you want to swap Being Good at Humanities with an alternative course, be it because of scheduling issues or when other courses match your interests better. There are three options to choose from: a course from Descartes College, the Da Vinci Project and the group of Koen Ottenheim. Three students who have taken these alternatives were asked to share their experiences. Below, you can find the impressions of Floor Eijkelboom, Juul Petit and Johan van Hall.

Koen's group (in English)

In Koen's group, we were asked to take turns in selecting texts that revealed certain aspects of a humanities scholar, which we read as a group. One of us would also give an introduction for the text. The special aspect was reading texts that were often outside of your own area of expertise, but also had a very different approach than you would have picked yourself. This meant that some texts were appealing to me, others were not, but this "open up" was an enrichment to me. Koen did not only ask pleasant and insightful questions, but selected a text himself as well.

The maps of English manors through time tell us a lot about social relationships back then. Why do these houses look the way they do? Suddenly, a building came with a map for me, a story about people that lived in that time and their social relations. Another person had selected texts from Kierkegaard, which also made a great impression on me. What at first seemed like "just homework", gave me moments of reflection. Of course we also had to write a paper, just like the other group. But this was relaxing and flexible as well. The form, group and Koen made this to one of the most fun and substantive courses.

Do you have any questions left? You can send a message to: j.vanhall@students.uu.nl

Descartes College (only available in Dutch)

Geschreven door Floor Eijkelboom

Als alternatief voor GiG kan je ook een cursus van het Descartescollege volgen. Het Descartescollege is een universiteitsbreed honoursprogramma van twee jaar, waarin je vier cursussen volgt. Elke cursus duurt 2 blokken, en is (net zoals GiG) 7.5 ECTS. In tegenstelling tot GiG, duurt het vak dus twee blokken i.p.v. 1, maar is de werkdruk per week minder hoog dan bij GiG.

Je volgt het derde vak van het Descartescollege genaamd (hou je vast): 'Humaniteit: van

genetica tot robotica, met inbegrip van Mozart en moraal'. Mocht deze titel je nou afschrikken, bedenk je dan dat je bij GiG ook kijkt naar de erudiete en smaakbewuste kwaliteiten van geesteswetenschappers. De Descartes colleges werken als volgt. Er wordt een spreker uitgenodigd die in de eerste

drie kwartier hun visie op het thema uiteenzet (in jouw geval waarschijnlijk dus Humaniteit). Dit was oprecht vaak heel tof, aangezien de sprekers met aandacht gekozen waren. Het tweede deel van de college was een vorm van debat/discussie over het net besproken onderwerp. Vaak was dit wel op zo'n manier, dat als je er niet zoveel zin in had om voor de groep een discussie aan te gaan, dit niet hoefde. De lezingen werden daarna plenair afgesloten. Het Descartescollege als geheel werkt als volgt. Je hebt iedere week een stuk literatuur

dat je moet lezen, een korte schrijfo opdracht die je moet maken (a 250 woorden) en een verplichte lezing die je moet bijwonen. Daarna is wel pizza, al waren die niet veganistisch (het inbegrip van moraal kwam hierin niet zo sterk terug). Je mocht maximaal 5 van deze dingen missen in mijn jaar. Dat wil zeggen, je mocht maximaal 5 keer niet naar een wekelijkse lezing komen of de literatuur niet inleveren. Er is dan ook een presentieplicht (met lijst, et cetera). Bovendien moet je een keer zelf met twee anderen een lezing voorbereiden (dit is dus het discussie/debat gedeelte wat steeds veranderde). Aan het einde van de twee blokken moet je een essay hebben geschreven (a 2000 woorden) en een column (a 500 woorden). De becijfering is wel fijn: die is er niet. Als je deze inspanningen hebt gedaan, heb je het

vak gehaald. Je sluit het vak dan af met een V of O (je krijgt een O, V of G voor je essay, maar in mijn osiris staat een V ondanks dat ik een G had en staat er verder ook niemand anders met een G).

De literatuur is verplicht. Dit wordt verder niet gecheckt, en je kan het Descartes college

prima doorkomen zonder een moment de literatuur open te slaan. Maar, veel literatuur is oprecht heel boeiend. Hier vind ik het moeilijk om mijn mening over te geven, omdat ik duidelijk heb gemerkt dat er in die zin een grote scheiding is binnen het Descartes college tussen de studenten die actief de literatuur lezen en de discussie aangaan, en de studenten die eigenlijk alleen wachten tot het 19:00 uur is. Het is dus wel de bedoeling, het is wel interessant, maar wordt niet altijd gedaan. Er zijn ook een aantal nadelen aan het Descartes college. Persoonlijk vond ik de verplichte

aanwezigheid lastig. Maar, als dat zou vervallen, zou er weinig overblijven van het vak ben ik bang, dus logisch dat dat er is. Het viel voor mij vaak samen met vergaderingen binnen de universiteit, waar ik mij ook mee bezig hou. Het jammere is, dat als dat een keer per maand samenvalt, je alsnog over twee blokken er 5 keer niet bent (en dat mag dus niet). Bovendien is het jammer dat je in het derde vak van het Descartes college binnenstroomt, aangezien veel mensen elkaar dan al kennen. Doe het daarom samen met iemand, or be ready to socialize. Al met al ben ik blij dat ik het Descartes college heb gevolgd. Ik weet natuurlijk niet hoe

het is om GiG te volgen, maar ik denk dat het Descartes college beter aansluit bij mijn vakgebied (Kunstmatige Intelligentie). Bovendien vond ik het juist leuk om niet alleen met GW bezig te zijn, omdat dat ook uitvoerig in Terreinverkenning naar voren is gekomen. Verder wil ik niet onbenoemd laten dat de docent(en) van het Descartes college heel aardig zijn en de TA van dat jaar ook.

Als je vragen hebt, mail me dan vooral op f.eijkelboom@uu.nl

The Da Vinci Project

Written by Juul Petit

During the Da Vinci project I have learned a lot about “out of the box”-thinking. Led by Fieke Sluijs, our group of Honours students has followed a course about ‘design thinking’. I saw this as the perfect opportunity to learn more about design, next to my study Artificial Intelligence.

Fieke familiarised us with the design thinking method, which consisted of five steps: empathising, defining, designing, prototype and testing.

In the first phase, the most important question was: what is the issue and how do we want to solve this? Designers use different and unusual perspectives to solve problems and Fieke let us try the same thing. Thus, we had to try to solve problems through the eyes of Pippi Longstocking, Greta Thunberg, Donald Trump or Cristiano Ronaldo. Through this method we came to new ideas, which we wouldn't have come to if we had viewed the problem from our own perspective. We found out that answers to questions and solutions to problems are endless and that not a single answer is too crazy. There is one question that stuck with everyone: ‘Give a wrong answer to the question: what is the capital of France?’. Many students gave answers such as ‘Lyon’, ‘Amsterdam’ or ‘Marseille’, but some came up with completely different answers such as ‘elephant’, ‘purple’ or ‘19’. Through this exercise we also realised that answers to questions are endless and that, again, no answer is weird enough. In the second phase, we thought about the goal of our solution. We learned about the ‘how might we...?’ question, through which we could formulate our goal in one single sentence. The third phase centred around selecting the best ideas. I learned from this that the best way to come to a good idea, is

generating a lot of ideas. We have learned to diverge: creating options and converge: making choices. In the fourth phase, the goal was to combine the best ideas and merge them into a prototype. To do this, it was important to realise that you will fail a lot, hard and often, before you will come to a good prototype. Good ideas will also have to cease to exist in order to eventually come to a better result. In the last phase, the prototype is tested and potential tweaks to the design can be applied.

I am very happy that I could be a part of this programme. Together with my group we have presented a nice result we can all be very proud of. We have also bonded together as a group through this, with students of different nationalities and disciplines. Besides the weekly meetings, we also followed a kickboxing workshop and closed off the course with a big dinner.

I will definitely use the things I have learned here in the future and I think it will help me a lot, applying it to Artificial Intelligence as well. For new Honours students I will definitely recommend the Da Vinci Programme, for it is an experience you will never forget!

If you have any questions, you can send an e-mail to: j.m.s.petit@students.uu.nl

Do take note that the Da Vinci Project takes place during block 2 and 3 and is worth 10 ECTS.

Honours Research Seminar

The Research Seminar takes place in the second semester of your first Honours year and thus comprises of both block 3 and 4. This course is worth 15 ECTS in total and will end up in your bachelor's free space. The amount of ECTS that will end up here differs per study, so you should check the amount of space that is left on your bachelor's web page. You can find the course on Osiris with the course code HHP3V14001, or through [this link](#).

During the Research Seminar, you will work together with other students from your Honours year. In self-made groups of 3-10 students you will formulate a research subject. The research project needs to follow at least one of the three Honours objectives, namely being academically deepening, (inter)disciplinary broadening or providing societal connection. Everyone will first conduct a literature study as individual research as the foundation of the research project. This newly found knowledge of all group members can be brought together in one joint end product, but this is not necessary.

The course consists of two parts. In the first part, you will join plenary meetings, in which you will familiarise yourself with different kinds of research and how you conduct them. Subsequently, teachers will hold presentations about their own research and academic interests. Based on these presentations you will form groups of students with one of the teachers as a supervisor, deciding on a centrally chosen theme together. Every group member will write an individual literary study based on this theme.

During the second part of the course you will work on a collaborative final product. You will meet up with your group and supervisor independently, which means there will be no more plenary lectures. The medium this end product will be is up to you as a group, as long as the research is scientifically sound and at least one of the Honours objectives is reached – it could be a bundle of essays, but also a magazine, podcast, play or documentary. Examples of end products from previous years can be found in the [display](#) of the Honours blog. Showing initiative, responsibility and creativity is key in this course, so take this opportunity to realise a project together that would not be possible in your regular, more restrictive courses.

Working on a project for a whole semester seems very long, but to be able to turn in a good final product it is important to not postpone all the work to the very last weeks. Make sure that you come

up with a plan and budget as a group for the whole semester and come to clear agreements about the division of tasks together. It is possible to request a financial contribution from the HHP-budget to realise your final product. This request must be submitted by the end of block 3. To do this, you must submit a clear description of the research, state what makes this project an Honours project and give a justification for the form of the product. Clearly describe which costs you will incur and enclose invoices. Writing a convincing request is a skill you will use later on in your (academic) career.

Working together with students from different disciplines will give you the opportunity to look past the borders of your own discipline but also take more effort to come to an integrated vision together. In case you still run into any issues as a group, make sure to inform your supervisor about this in due time. It is very important to make clear agreements with your teacher and the other students in the group to make this course run as smoothly as possible.

Year 2

In the second year of the Honours programme there are no longer any mandatory lecture-like courses and you will schedule your Honours requirements yourself. This means a lot of responsibility is put on you, so it is advisory to thoroughly read through the information below.

Honours Thesis

An extra Honours component will be added to your thesis if you follow the HHP. This means that your thesis will not be worth 7.5, but 15 ECTS, of which 7.5 ECTS will be added on top of your regular programme. You have to be registered for this extra component of the thesis with the code HHP3V15002 (see [Osiris](#)) through the programme coordinator. You can do this by sending an email to humanitieshonours@uu.nl. You then also need to register for the thesis of your own bachelor, in this case through Osiris like you would normally do. Make sure you check whether you are registered for both components. It is also important to be aware of the moment you plan your thesis; for some bachelors there are only certain blocks in which you can apply for guidance while you write. Be sure to research this in due time when you are planning your thesis.

An Honours thesis has additional requirements on top of the regular demands of your bachelor's thesis. In short this entails that quantitatively, the thesis should be 1.5 times the amount of words of the regular thesis and at least 1.5 times the amount of primary and secondary material. Qualitatively, the following values must be reflected in your work: independence, depth, academic broadness, societal context and international context. This is, however a short summary, so do take a look at the document of [additional requirements](#) (Dutch source). It remains important to stay in contact with your supervisors and inform them when and where you run into problems. You can also take a look at the HHP's newsletter for inspiration. In this newsletter, which you receive via e-mail, you will often find interviews with other Honours students about their theses. It is important to let your thesis supervisor know that you are writing an Honours thesis with additional requirements. Furthermore, you should contact your department's Honours coordinator to discuss Honours specific guidance.

Information sessions will be organised a couple times in the academic year for students who will work on their thesis. You are required to attend one of these meetings. The dates for the upcoming sessions will be sent to you via e-mail and can be found on the [website](#) under the heading "thesis informatiebijeenkomst". Send a [message](#) to let the organisers know which seminar you will join and to receive more information. Additionally, you should make use of the Honours community while writing. You can, for example, organise peer-feedback sessions to receive and give out comments on each other's work. This can be extra beneficial, for you will receive feedback from students from different disciplines, who are also aware of the Honours requirements.

At the end of the academic year there will be a closing meeting, in which every student will present their thesis findings. You will organise this presentation day together with the other writers, so you should convene in time to discuss what you would want the presentations to be like.

During the entire programme

Next to set courses and thesis demands, there are additional components to the programme that will aid you to make as much out of Honours education as possible. Your contribution to the Honours community and work on a portfolio will take place throughout the entire programme.

Honours Community and SV Eureka

Within the HHP, students, teachers and alumni form a community in which they can inspire and stimulate each other. You can retrieve a lot of knowledge and motivation by being a part of the programme and find new contacts this way. To be able to continue this tradition, every student is asked to contribute to community building. In the first place this means that everyone is supposed to organise activities for their portfolio (see below). Additionally, everyone should help to create an open environment that is inviting to everyone for academic initiatives, freedom and intellectual expression and creates a warm and welcoming space for the exchange of ideas.

If this might still sound a tad vague, a good starting point could be the study association of the HHP, SV Eureka. At Eureka, students come together to engage in stimulating activities that are not just fun, but also always academically justified. You can think of examples such as symposia, a book club, guest lectures and discussions over drinks. To get an impression of the inspiring activities, you are always welcome to join, especially when the introduction week kicks off at the beginning of the year. You can check out their [website](#) here, or take a look at the SV Eureka Facebook page. You could also visit the Eureka room at Drift 13 1.16, where the door is always open.

Next to these extracurricular activities, you can also provide meaningful input for your co-students in another way: the quality of the Honours education itself. The HHP's Curriculum Committee (Onderwijscommissie, OC) would be glad to hear your ideas, experiences and possible points of improvement to continue to improve and develop the courses. Specifically for this type of input, the OC organises "onderwijsgesprekken" (conversations about education) to hear from the students. Whether you have only just started the programme or are an Honours veteran, your voice and presence is useful and important. These conversations happen at least twice a year, but in case you would like to express something outside of these, you can always e-mail the OC. You are of course also more than welcome to have a chat with the teacher or student members as well; you can find the current members on the [BlackBoard page](#) of the Humanities Honours Portfolio.

Portfolio

During your career at the HHP you will maintain a portfolio. This document is supposed to reflect your experiences and activities at the HHP. To complete the programme, you are expected to hand in a complete portfolio to the Honours coordinator of your domain at the end of your studies. You will need to start your portfolio right at the beginning of your first Honours year and reflect on a study plan and your personal learning objectives during Honours. Use your portfolio wisely as an opportunity to think about these from the very start of the programme.

An important part of this portfolio is the (at least) two activities you have helped to organise, which amounts to (at least) one per year. An activity can be anything as long as it is academically justified. This of course does not mean it has to be boring. It is actually an opportunity to show the rest of the

HHP what interests you and to grow and show off your knowledge. Be sure to consult your Honours coordinator about your activity to make sure you can use it for your portfolio. You could also check out [this document](#) (Dutch source) with tips. In case you want to apply for a financial contribution, you can use [this form](#) (in Dutch). You can also come up with a lot for your portfolio through SV Eureka. They have a ton of experience organising activities, so they would be happy to help you. You can also use the Eureka calendar for inspiration for activities.

Will you be studying an extra year and lengthen your time at the HHP? Do not forget to still work on your portfolio in this “gap year” and keep into contact with the Honours community. Be sure to attend activities and help to organise them. Your extra activities that year might offer interesting experiences to share with the other students.

Contact information

For general questions about the programme: Judith Lavrijssen, humanitieshonours@uu.nl

For feedback on the programme, you can reach the Curriculum Committee (OC):

[Frans Willem Lantink](#) – Chair, teaching member (GKG)

[Martine Veldhuizen](#) – Teaching member (TLC)

Jeanne van den Brink – Student member (LAS & TCS) – j.vandenbrink@students.uu.nl

Marga Don – Student member (F&R) m.j.don@students.uu.nl

Contact person per domain

TLC:

Honours coordinator (for questions about the programme, portfolio, etc.): [Barnita Bagchi](#)

MCW:

Honours coordinator (for questions about the programme, portfolio, etc.): [Rick Dolphijn](#)

GKG:

Honours coordinator (for questions about the programme, portfolio, etc.): [Frans Willem Lantink](#)

F&R:

Honours coordinator (for questions about the programme, portfolio, etc.): [Daniel Cohitz](#)

LAS & TCS:

Honours coordinator (for questions about the programme, portfolio, etc.): [Coco Kanters](#)