

NEW COURSE

Department: ORIGINS INSTITUTE

Course Name: **ORIGINS 4A09**
Origins Research Thesis
To be offered first in 2008-09

Date: November 2004

Calendar copy description:

ORIGINS 4A09: Origins Research Thesis
An individual thesis involving a research project carried out by a student under supervision by a faculty member in the Origins Institute (with a committee including at least one member from the student's home department).
Two terms.
Prerequisites: enrolment in the Origins Research Specialization with successful completion of Levels II and III.
Not offered in 2005-2006.

Expected enrolment:

50

Enrolment limited? If so, why?

Yes, to ensure that an environment that is conducive to developing skills in independent scientific research and self-directed, problem-based, and inquiry-based learning is provided to students.

Other department(s) consulted.

Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Geology, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, Associate Dean of Science, Dean of Science, Provost, President

Is this course cross listed? If so indicate course(s).

Resource implications.

Detailed course content and reasons for introduction of course.

The Origins Research Specialization culminates with this experience. Students will conduct a thesis-based research project under supervision by a faculty member in the Origins Institute. The research will be guided and evaluated by a committee (including the supervisor) that must include at least one member from the student's home department.

Students will present the results that they obtained, at an annual Origins Research Thesis Symposium, a miniature scientific meeting that will transpire over one day late in the academic year. The symposium will comprise seminar and poster sessions. Seminars will comprise 20-minutes (15 minute presentation and 5 minute question period). Formal time will be set-aside for poster viewing whereat students will answer questions. The Origins Research Thesis Symposium schedule will be posted, and sessions will run punctually to allow the audience, which could include any member in the McMaster University community (including the public), to attend only those presentations they wish or that their schedules permit. This public forum will be promoted widely to ensure that it is well attended by faculty and students from the entire Faculty of Science. Students, in consultation with their committees, will decide the format for the presentation format early in the winter term. This crowning experience in the Origins Research Specialization will ensure that the curriculum yields a network of self-motivated, liberally educated, and technically literate graduates who will be strong contributors to scientific and cultural development in Canada when they graduate.