

Honors guidelines for History majors -- April defense

Honors projects in history provide an opportunity for students to integrate their education and focus it via a significant research and writing project, including a challenging oral defense. Students wishing to pursue an honors project in History must meet the following requirements.

- Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average no lower than 3.5 in History courses and 3.30 overall.
- Students must have declared a major in History.
- Students must make written application to the chairperson of the department, explaining the topic and nature of their project, the primary sources they intend to examine, and a bibliography of key secondary sources they intend to consult. This application should be accompanied by a letter of support from the member of the department who is willing to direct the project, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript. These materials are due on April 15 of the junior year. Students will be notified by the end of the semester whether they are provisionally approved to continue. On the first day of Fall semester, students will be asked to turn in a progress report after which the department will determine whether to approve the continuation of the project.
- Students must register for HIST 490, the senior seminar, taught each fall by members of the department. In the spring, honors students may enroll in an independent study course, but they should be aware that only one independent study course may count among the ten courses that constitute a major.
- At the end of fall term, project advisors will submit written progress reports to the chairperson of the History department. At its December meeting, the department will discuss the progress being made by all students undertaking Honors projects in History and will make a collective decision about which students will be allowed to continue their projects.
- The department expects that the final product will be a substantial written thesis which demonstrates independent critical thought and original research. It differs from a senior seminar paper (the normal capstone) in its breadth, depth, and scope. We realize that the occasional project might best be completed with an alternative product -- such as a script, an historical novel, a computer model, a physical exhibit, or an audio or visual documentary.
- The final draft will be due one week before the oral defense, which will normally be scheduled in mid- April. Students will be allowed some time to

make minor revisions and to produce a clean, final product. The final version of the thesis, appropriate for binding and placement in the library, is due in late April.

- Each honors student will be evaluated by a committee of at least three faculty members, two of whom must come from the History department. This committee will read the honors thesis (or evaluate the alternative final product) and will engage the student in an oral discussion of her/his project. The committee will decide whether to recognize the student's work with "honors." The individual project advisor will be responsible for assigning the student a final letter grade for his/her independent study course.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

TO THE HISTORY HONORS

Name _____ Graduation Date _____

Major(s) _____

Honors Advisor _____

Preliminary project title: _____

I. Please attach a research proposal which addresses the following points.

1. What is your research hypothesis or what questions will you be trying to answer?
2. Describe in detail your plans for carrying out this project. What primary sources or methods of data collection and analysis are required for this project?
3. Provide a preliminary bibliography.

II. Please ask your honors advisor to complete the attached endorsement form and ask her or him to return it to the chair of the History Department.

I believe that my GPA is 3.3 or above as required for participation in the Honors Program. I understand that the History Department will obtain my academic audit to confirm my eligibility.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Return to the chair of the History Department
Deadline for May graduates April 15.
Deadline for December graduates February 12.

HONORS ADVISOR ENDORSEMENT

Student's Name _____

Honors Advisor _____

Honors advisors are asked to write a letter of endorsement for the student whose project they have agreed to supervise. In your letter, please address the following concerns, using illustrations from your past work with the student whenever possible: 1. The student's ability to work independently, 2. The student's previous experience in the discipline, and 3. The student's knowledge of the topic area and the appropriateness of this topic for pursuit as an honors project. Thank you for your support.

Please return your endorsement letter to the chair of the History Department .

Deadline for May graduates April 15.
Deadline for December graduates February 12.