

Department of History Honors Program

Approved May 2009

Through its Honors Program, the Department of History offers students who have demonstrated very strong academic ability the opportunity to engage in more advanced research and writing than the regular major program requires. The program is not limited to students who intend to undertake graduate study or pursue careers in history, but it can be of particular benefit to such students.

Students who complete the requirements described below will graduate "With Honors in History." Students who complete these requirements and also take the requisite courses prescribed by the University Honors Program will graduate as "University Honors Scholars."

Requirements for Honors Degree in History:

1. Complete all Department of History major requirements except History 401 (Research Seminar).
2. Complete History 402 (History Honors Project), for 8-12 credit hours, with a grade of "A" or "B." This replaces History 401.
3. Complete University Honors 400 (interdisciplinary University Honors Seminar on varying topics), with a grade of "A" or "B."
4. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all courses and 3.5 in history courses.

Eligibility for Admission:

1. Cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in all courses and 3.5 in history courses.
2. Completion of at least 12 credit hours in advanced courses in history.
3. Preparation and approval of Senior Honors Project to be completed in History 402. Approval of the project must occur by the end of the first quarter of the student's senior year.

Senior Honors Thesis Proposal:

1. The student will ask three full-time faculty members (tenured, tenure-track, full-time lecturer/instructor) to form a thesis committee. The student will, in consultation with one or more of these faculty members, select the chair of the committee. The chair will be the instructor of record and the principle advisor for the thesis. At least two members of the committee must be from the history department. In exceptional circumstances and when academically advisable, a larger committee may be formed.

2. In consultation with the committee, the student will prepare a proposal for a research project that will culminate in the writing of a senior thesis. The committee chair will ordinarily supervise the student's subsequent research and writing, with the final thesis being approved by the entire committee. The proposal should indicate the number of credit hours (8-12) for which the student will enroll in History 402.
3. The proposal must be approved by the entire committee before the end of the quarter before which the student plans to enroll in the thesis hours.
4. The proposal must be specific enough to convince the committee that the student can complete the work in the time allotted. A proposal should be at least 800 words in length.
5. The proposal must also include an annotated bibliography of the major sources the student will examine in the research phase of the project. This bibliography, distinguishing between primary sources that will enable the student to do original work and secondary sources, should be at least three pages long.

Description of the thesis:

The thesis should typically be a minimum of 40 pages long (8 hours) or 60 pages long (12 hours). It should draw extensively on primary sources, show an awareness of other scholarly contributions to the field, and contribute to the body of scholarly information.

Evaluation:

Upon completion of the thesis, the faculty advisor chair of the committee will read it and, if it is found to be satisfactory, will pass it on to the rest of the committee for their approval. After the entire committee has approved it, the student will meet with the committee to discuss the results. This process will last no longer than one hour and, at the student's discretion, be open to the public.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee will advise the committee chair, who is the instructor of record, on a grade for the thesis. For departmental or university honors, the student must receive a grade of "A" or "B." If the student receives a passing grade lower than a "B," the hours earned in History 402 will count as elective credit hours, and the student will not graduate with honors.