

Deadline Guidelines for Honors Thesis in History Department of History, Philosophy and Religion

Paper Criteria for Consideration

Like the paper for HPRL 493, Senior Capstone Research Seminar, this final project should employ the skills of a professional historian. In other words, it should provide new interpretations and make a contribution to the field of history. Students may use the research, work and writing from senior seminar to complement the final paper. However, the project should not be viewed as two separate papers; thesis participants should reflect, revise and rework sections of their history capstone project, where necessary, in order to submit the final paper for thesis consideration.

The final thesis will be at least 30-35 pages, including footnotes and works cited page. The paper must be completed with correct use of Chicago Manual of Style; consult Mary Ann Rampolla's *A Student's Guide to History* as a reference. The paper should be proofread carefully and appear professional in style. It should have a clear section devoted to historiography, and incorporate primary sources to make an argument.

The committee will be made up of at least two faculty in History, one of whom serves as the Thesis Mentor. If a third outside History member is desired, that is acceptable. The Thesis Mentor provides guidelines to the student for completion for the project; however, the responsibility of independent research, deadline submission, and final product rests with the student in order to earn a Bachelor of Arts in History, with Departmental Honors.

Guidelines for Thesis Completion—First Semester:

The requirement for the Honors Thesis is met through HPRL 493: Research Capstone. However, consulting with your Thesis Mentor will be an important part of the semester's work and the honors project.

August/September: meet with and develop a topic in consultation with Thesis Mentor

October: meet with consultative team consisting of HPRL 493 professor and Thesis Mentor at least once or as determined by mentor

October (in conjunction with HPRL 493 deadline): submit bibliography, prospectus, and outline to Thesis Mentor

November 15: Two-page Prospectus of Honors Thesis Project for academic year due to Thesis Mentor and committee for approval

Nov/December: submit drafts of pp. 1-10 and 1-16 to Thesis Mentor for feedback in conjunction with senior capstone for feedback from team

Your overall grade is determined by your Capstone professor; however, t/o the year the student works with the Capstone professor and the Thesis mentor.

Guidelines for Thesis Completion—Second Semester:

The requirement for the Honors Thesis is met through HIST 496, an independent class designed to further the research project. The Thesis Mentor will determine the grade for the class through consultation with faculty on the Thesis Committee.

During this semester, students should meet at least once a month with their project team, together or individually, as determined by the Mentor. E-mail communication is expected at least every two weeks as a minimum to the established deadlines. Work should be completed in stages, as determined by the Mentor, but minimum expectations include:

By January 30: Meet with Committee to Discuss Honors Thesis and Prospectus

February: Conduct additional Research/Bibliographic additions

By March 1: Submit draft of Revised Paper (argument, thesis, body, bibliography), approximately pages 1-25 to Thesis Mentor and Committee and meet, together or individually, as determined by Mentor

By April 1: Submit revisions and pages 1-30 to Thesis Mentor and Committee meet with Thesis Mentor and Committee, together or individually, as determined by Mentor

April 10: Submit final paper title to Faculty Mentor to arrange public presentation

April 15-20: Meet with Faculty Mentor and Committee for final suggestions and revisions on revised paper

April 30: Final Paper due

Last week of April: Public Presentation and Q/A with History faculty, students, et. al. with some Visual Media Component, either PPT or Video documentary.

First Week of May: Full History faculty will meet to discuss the Thesis and determine whether the project meets the criteria of Departmental Honors in History

Departmental Honors Formal Approval

If the History faculty concludes that an applicant has earned an Honors designation, s/he/they will be recommended for formal approval to graduate with a B.A. with Departmental Honors. The Honors designation is at the discretion of the Department and implies excellence. Should the honors designation not be granted, credit can still be earned for the class (assuming a passing grade) and a student's resume may still list "honors thesis in history." It is the student's responsibility to work with the Faculty Mentor to ensure that important stages of the research paper are carried out in order to progress towards an excellent outcome.

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