**THE HONORS PROGRAM IN HISTORY**

**FOR HONORS HISTORY MAJORS:**

**In addition to the basic requirements for the history major, honors students are obliged to complete the following additional requirements.**

1. Honors History majors are encouraged to take **Honors versions of History 2800 and the two 4000-level seminars** described above in **Category A: Skills acquisition** (**9 credit hours**). If insufficient honors seminars are offered in a given semester, an honors History major must either **(1)** take an honors embedded seminar, or **(2)** request permission from the department Honors advisor to substitute a non-honors seminar for an honors seminar.
2. Honors students are encouraged to take Honors versions of the other 24 credit hours of other courses (discussed above), whenever possible. Students should only take non-honors 2000 level courses when a topical equivalent is not available at the 3000-level.
3. Honors students are encouraged to take more of the 4000-level Seminars than the two required for the major.
4. **Advanced training in foreign languages** is important for all Honors students choosing the History Major. Every honors student choosing the History Major is encouraged to develop proficiency (meaning the ability to read newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals, and novels) in at least one foreign language.
5. **Senior honors thesis:** Honors students wishing to graduate “With Honors Research Distinction” are required to write a senior honors thesis. In preparation, they are encouraged to use the coursework from a 4000-level seminar as the foundation for the thesis.
6. All history honors majors complete a major of at least 39 credit hours. Students completing a thesis and earning a degree "With Honors Research Distinction" may use the 6-9 credit hours earned in History 4999H toward the 39 credit hour minimum.

**THE HONORS PROGRAM IN HISTORY**

**PURPOSE**

Honors students majoring in history complete both the Major and the requirements for "Honors in the Arts and Sciences" or "With Honors Research Distinction" or both. In order for a history major pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in the College of Arts and Sciences to maintain status as an Honors student, he or she must prepare and follow a program of study approved by the Arts and Sciences Honors Committee. Students earning a degree with "Honors in the Arts and Sciences" complete an "honors contract" approved by the ASC Honors Committee; these contracts provide for a rigorous program of study. Students earning a degree with "Honors Research Distinction" complete an Honors Thesis under the supervision of a thesis advisor in the Department of History. Some history majors satisfy the requirement for both designations and receive both designations on their degrees.

Honors students choosing the history major will engage in a course of study designed to sharpen writing, research, and analytical skills, to develop insights into how historians do their work, and to gain substantial historical knowledge. The History Major furnishes excellent preparation for graduate-level work, for professional schools including law school, and for careers in business, education, the arts, and public service.

Honors students seeking help with their History Major should first see Dr. Ray Irwin, 110 Dulles Hall, 292-7101. He is available to discuss the honors requirements and to help with scheduling classes. Dr. Irwin also helps plan the section on the major in the honors contract required for receiving a degree with "Honors in the Arts and Sciences" and recommends faculty advisors to the individual student. Students who undertake an Honors Thesis also will have a faculty advisor for that project and will enroll in History 4999H, "Honors Undergraduate Research Thesis."

**EXPECTATIONS**

Honors students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences work closely with advisors and members of the faculty to develop a rigorous program of study. With the approval of the Arts and Sciences Honors committee, the program of study may approach requirements flexibly so long as the program includes special rigor and intellectual challenges. Honors students majoring in history thus must work closely with the Arts and Sciences Honors Program staff to ensure completion of the requirements of the Arts and Sciences Honors Program.

The faculty of the history department encourages the honors student to complete the degree "With Honors Research Distinction" through the writing of an honors thesis. Completion of a thesis is important preparation for successful performance in a professional or graduate program. Thesis completion occurs through enrollment in History 4999H, "Honors Undergraduate Research Thesis." Six credits of History 4999H may replace the two required 4000-level seminars in the History Major. Students completing a thesis and earning a degree "With Honors Research Distinction" must complete a major program totaling at least 39 credits (6-9 of which may be credit for History 4999H). Students planning to write a thesis should, in consultation with their thesis advisor, define a topic and devise a plan of work at least two semesters prior to their anticipated graduation. They may also apply for the Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Scholarship competition.

**REQUIREMENTS: ASC Honors Tracks**

There are two components to the History Honors Program. The first is the Major Program in History; the second is the ASC Honors Program. The requirements for the Major Program in History for Honors Students have been described above. This section describes the various tracks the ASC Honors Program offers, along with Department of History requirements.

In addition to the above requirements, and as established by the ASC Honors Program and the Department of History, History Honors students must choose one of the following three tracks.

**A. With Honors Research Distinction**

The History Department Faculty recommends that History Honors students write an honors thesis, because completion of a thesis prepares students for graduate or professional school or professional employment.

A History Honors student planning to graduate *with Honors Research Distinction* will:

* Devise with the faculty thesis advisor at least two semesters before graduation a prospectus for the Honors Thesis. The ASC Honors Committee must approve the prospectus. While working on the Thesis, the student will enroll in History 4999H for a total of at least 6 credit hours and a maximum of 9 credit hours.
* Graduate with a GPA of no less than 3.40.
* Meet the prerequisites for History 4999H: the completion of at least 18 credit hours in history, with a grade point average in the history courses of at least 3.50.
* Enroll in a History 4999H, “Honors Undergraduate Research Thesis.”

*Note: Honors students who earn six credits for 4999H and successfully defend a thesis are encouraged to take any additional 4000-level Seminars that interest them but are not required to do so.*

**B. With Honors in the Arts and Sciences**

History Honors students planning to graduate *with Honors in the Arts and Sciences* will:

* Fulfill an Honors Contract. The Honors contract is devised by the student in consultation with the History and ASC Honors Advisors. It should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than early in the junior year, and it must be approved by the ASC Honors Committee
* Complete two 4000-level Seminars, taking honors sections when possible. ~~(Not required for students who earn six credit hours for History 4999H and who defend a thesis successfully.)~~ Honors students are encouraged to take more of the 4000-level seminars than the two required for the Major.
* Graduate with a GPA of no less than 3.40.

**C. Honors in the Arts and Sciences with Honors Research Distinction**

History Honors students planning to graduate *with Honors in the Arts and Sciences* and with *Honors* *Research Distinction* will fulfill all of the requirements listed in A. and B. above.

*Note: Under exceptional circumstances the Department of History is willing to modify the requirements of the Honors Program in History to fit the specific needs of individual students. Such modifications must conform to the policies of the Arts and Sciences Honors Committee.*