



Department of History

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN HISTORY

Everything you need to know to complete an undergraduate thesis

UCLA Department of History
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A QUICK WORD...

About UCLA and Honors...

- Latin Honors

CUM LAUDE: 3.648 min. overall GPA

MAGNA CUM LAUDE: 3.786 min. overall GPA

SUMMA CUM LAUDE: 3.879 min. overall GPA

- College Honors

<http://www.ugeduction.ucla.edu/honors/>

- Departmental Honors

- Phi Alpha Theta Honors

Ad Honorem Membership

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

The honors program in History is designed for History majors who are interested in carrying out a year-long independent research project that will culminate in an honors thesis. The project gives qualified students the opportunity of working closely with an individual professor on a supervised research and writing project. Students interested in particular historical documents and in work more demanding and requiring more time than regular courses should find the program rewarding.

WAIT... WHAT?

IT'S A THESIS!

You will produce a 40-60 page thesis based on primary source materials on a topic of your choosing.*

- It's an opportunity to study what YOU are most interested in!
- It's an opportunity to work with a professor independently!
- It's an opportunity to earn credit towards College Honors and fulfill 3 upper division courses out of the 10 for the major!
- It's an opportunity to make your graduate school application, law school application, or medical school application stand out!
- It's an opportunity to develop or continue expanding on transferable skills such as critical thinking & analysis, communication (verbal & written), and organizational skills.
- It's an opportunity to impress the heck out of your family, friends, and other history nerds!

JUST THE FACTS

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must have a DEPARTMENTAL GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Students must find a full time faculty member willing to act as their advisor. (Lecturers are not eligible*)

COMMITMENT

- Three quarters—beginning with the winter quarter of your Junior year:
 - Spring Junior Year
 - Fall Senior Year
 - Winter Senior Year
- You must apply to the program **BEFORE** enrolling in the spring quarter.

JUST THE FACTS

DPR

- Register for 198A via Contract Courses on MyUCLA (Classes -> Classes and Exams -> Contract Courses). You will follow the same procedure for each quarter.
- You **must apply** to the program **BEFORE** enrolling in the spring quarter.

GPA

- You will receive a grade for 198A. An IP will appear on your DPR for 198B and once the thesis is completed, a grade will be issued for 198B and 198C.
- These courses will count towards College Honors as well as towards the upper division requirements for the major.

Please note, you have the option to use the 198A to fulfill the History 191 Capstone Seminar.

HOW TO PICK A TOPIC?

- Ask a question that's interesting...to YOU!
- This project is entirely dependent on your commitment!
- Start with a broad topic
- The beginning is a time to explore ideas...not finalize your thesis statement
- Talk to everyone! Utilize your classmates, family, friends, and professors to find out what types of questions you should try to answer.
- Think BIG! Unless you are committed to a very specific subject, dream big! Your advisor will reign you in, if necessary.

HOW TO CHOOSE AN ADVISOR?

- By Area of Interest

Ideally, you will have established a relationship with a professor in a field that you are interested in. If you have not, start by searching in the History department website (<http://www.history.ucla.edu/faculty>) and ask friends and history department staff about professors who study your area of interest.

- Email

Email Professors that you are interested in working with and explain, roughly, your research interests. It is important to provide as much information as possible to the Professor about who you are, what they are committing to, and why you are interested. If you took a class with that specific professor, send them a paper you wrote in their class and a short paragraph describing your topic and thesis.

- (Polite) Persistence!

Demonstrate your commitment and enthusiasm by eagerly pursuing and advisor.*

TIMELINE

| Fall & Winter of Junior Year | Winter Junior Year | Spring Junior Year | Summer | Fall Senior Year | Winter Senior Year |
|---|--|--|---------------------|------------------|--|
| Begin searching for a Faculty Advisor ASAP! Transfer students – this can be especially daunting, but rewarding! | Submit Application + 198A Course Contract printout from MyUCLA to the Counseling Unit to finalize enrollment (Enroll during your second pass) | Prospectus or Formal Proposal Research | Research Free Write | Write | Turn in completed thesis! (Usually by Week 10 or Finals Week) |

CHECKLIST

- Find an advisor. Any full time faculty member is eligible, including Assistant and Associate Professors
- Apply to the program. The application is available at www.history.ucla.edu under Academics -> Undergraduate -> Honors
- Enroll in 198A. The student must also print out a Petition to Enroll in a 198A on MyUCLA. The signed application and the 198A Petition is returned to the Counseling Office, and the student is enrolled in the appropriate independent study. This then must be done no later than Friday of the second week of the quarter.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES & CONTACTS

- www.history.ucla.edu -> Academics -> Undergraduate -> Honors

All the basic information regarding the department and the thesis. Application is available here.

- <http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/urhass/>

Undergraduate Research Center for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.
Scholarships are available for undergraduate research.

GOOD LUCK!

Questions?

The PowerPoint for the presentation will be available in our website:
<http://www.history.ucla.edu/academics/undergraduate/honors>

You can also contact our Counseling Unit:

- Paul Padilla: padilla@history.ucla.edu or (310) 825-3720

Drop-In Hours: 10am – 5pm, Monday - Friday

- Indira Y. Garcia: Indira@history.ucla.edu or (310) 794-7053

Drop-In Hours: Please contact for hours or to schedule an appointment.