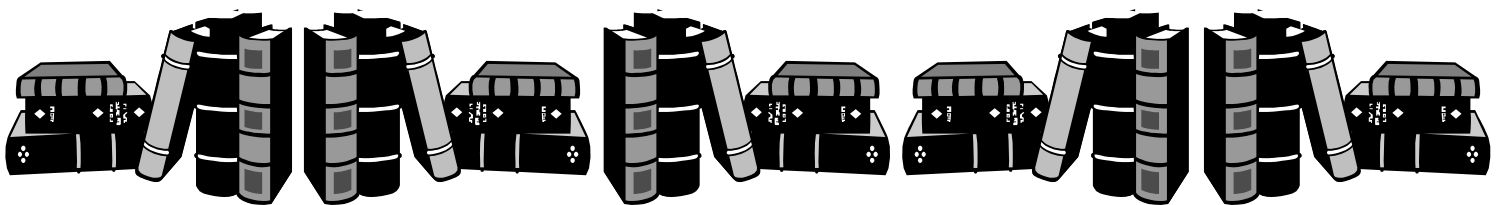


# **History Honors Program**

**(Information and Application Packet)**

**Undergraduate Coordinator, Judy Yonkin**  
**History Department, 450 McGraw Hall**  
**Phone: 607-255-4367**  
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### **History Department Honors Program:**

The history department offers a honors program for students who wish to research and write a thesis during the course of their senior year.

### **Entry into the Honors Program:**

During the second term of the sophomore year or early in the junior year, interested students should speak to a faculty member or faculty adviser about the honors program.

The requirements for entry to the honors program are:

- a 3.5 GPA in courses taken within the History Department
- Completion of HIST 4000 Introduction to Historical Research
- Each student must submit an application and writing sample by no later than May 15<sup>th</sup> of their junior year.
  - Students should bring the application form, a transcript, and writing sample to the Undergraduate Coordinator for approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies and formal admittance into the honors program. The writing sample is ideally a paper submitted for a 2000-level seminar, but may also be a writing sample from a discipline other than History.
- Students must secure a faculty member to serve as a supervisor to direct the thesis during the junior year, the thesis supervisor's signature is then required on the application and due on May 15<sup>th</sup> of the student's junior year.

### **Preparation for Thesis Writing: History 4000 (Junior Year)**

Students planning to write an honors thesis must take History 4000, Introduction to Historical Research, in the fall or spring semester of their junior year. History 4000 is offered in both the fall and spring semesters. Those considering pursuing an honors thesis should plan their academic schedules accordingly.

### **Junior Year Abroad**

History majors who wish *both* to study abroad (or in Cornell-in-Washington) and to enter the honors program should consult their advisors or the DUS as soon as possible after declaring the major. The department requires honors students to enroll in History 4000 before writing a thesis in their senior year. So planning ahead is essential, especially if you intend to spend a full year abroad.

### **Selecting a Thesis Supervisor and First Reader**

Before the beginning of the senior year, the candidate presents, in conversation or in writing, a thesis proposal to an appropriate member of the faculty. Faculty must be

members of the department or field of History. This must be confirmed by the DUS by May 15<sup>th</sup> of your junior year.

In consultation with the supervisor, the honors candidate selects a first reader. The first reader provides additional guidance in areas of specialization. At the conclusion of the student's senior year, the supervisor and first reader conduct the student's oral exam; the first reader also serves as one of the two referees of the honors thesis in a written report to the honors committee.

### **History 4001 and History 4002 (Senior Year)**

Honors candidates should apply to the honors program after completing HIST 4000 or by May 15<sup>th</sup> of their junior year if taking HIST 4000 that spring. Enrollment in HIST 4001 Honors Guidance then occurs over the summer. HIST 4001 is a 4-credit course, meeting once a week, that permits honors candidates to conduct research and to begin writing the honors essay in a seminar environment. Its purpose is to provide honors students structure for their research, to introduce them to research techniques and to allow them to pursue their research and writing in a seminar format. At the end of the first semester of the senior year, as part of the requirements for HIST 4001, the student submits to the supervisor a 10- to 15-page overview, or, alternatively, a preliminary draft of some part of the thesis along with an outline of the whole to the instructor of HIST 4001 and to the student's supervisor. Honors students continue to consult with their supervisors on specialized readings and research questions.

In the spring semester of their senior year, Honors students continue their research and writing in History 4002 Honors Research. HIST 4002 is a 4-credit seminar course, meeting weekly from the beginning of the semester until the first week in April, that permits honors candidates to complete the honors essay and to demonstrate their understanding of the ways in which the themes explored in the thesis fit into a larger historical context. Students share and discuss their written work, while continuing to meet on an individual basis with their supervisors.

### **Submission and Evaluation of the Honors Thesis**

The text of the Honors essay may not exceed 60 pages (not including notes, which can come at the end, nor bibliography); double-spaced; citation style is footnotes, no in-text citations. Three bound copies and a pdf of the thesis are due during the second or third weeks of April. The additional pdf of the thesis will be entered into competition for History prizes, given in May.

Each honors candidate is given an oral examination administered by the supervisor (during late April/early May). Examination focuses on the essay as well as the specific sub-field of history in which the student has conducted research (e.g., Periclean Athens, seventeenth-century science, nineteenth-century American politics).

The completed thesis is evaluated by two readers: the first reader and an anonymous second reader chosen from the History Department Director of Undergraduate Studies.

In determining whether to award Honors and at what level (honors; high honors; highest honors), the honors committee weighs: the student's thesis; the readers' reports on the thesis; the student's performance in their end-of-year oral exam; and, the student's grades in History 4001 and 4002. Additionally, to qualify for a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in history, a student must (1) sustain at least a 3.5 cumulative average in all history courses, (2) complete 10 courses in history (for 3 or 4 credits each) and meet all graduation requirements, and (3) earn at least a *cum laude* grade on the honors essay and oral exam.

### **Structure of the Honors Program for January Graduates:**

As History 4001-4002 are offered in strict fall-spring sequence, January graduates cannot take these courses in sequence. January graduates must plan ahead and take the Honors 4001-4002 sequence beginning the last semester of their junior year. Or may enroll in History 3002 (both fall and spring semesters) as a one-on-one directed research overseen by their supervisor (non-honors designation).

### **Graduation Requirements for Honors Students in the History Major**

- 10 history courses (with a grade of "C" or better), which include:
  - History 4000
  - History 4001
  - History 4002
- At least a 3.5 average within the History major.
- 3 of the ten courses must be in history before 1800.
- 4 of the ten courses must be outside of U.S. History.
- 2 of the ten courses, must be seminars. One of these seminars must be a 4000-level seminar. Service-learning 4000-level courses may not be used to fulfill the 4000-level seminar requirement.

**Cornell History Department**  
**Application for Honors**  
*(Please Print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include the following information when submitting this form to the Main Office:**

**A. A transcript**

**B. A writing sample**

**C. Indicate semester you took History 4000 (Introduction to Historical Research) \_\_\_\_\_**

Semester/year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ NetID: \_\_\_\_\_ CUID: \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Thesis Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(thesis advisor must approve & sign below)

1. Provide the following information for all Cornell History courses you have taken, with grades for all courses completed to date. (No student will be admitted to the Honors Program with a grade point average less than a 3.5 in the major.)

Course #	Title	Semester	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Provide the following information for courses you have taken in fields other than History, that you believe to be relevant to your History major and/or honors project.

Course #	Title	Semester	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

3. A) What was your **cumulative GPA** as of the end of the last semester completed?

\_\_\_\_\_

B) What was your average in the **History major** as of the end of the last semester completed? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Provide a brief statement of your major interests in History.

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**Applicant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis Advisor signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Approval of Honors Committee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form and all supporting documents to the Undergraduate Coordinator, Judy Yonkin.**