

## **Honors Program Overview for the Class of 2022 and subsequent cohorts**

The History Department offers undergraduate students the opportunity to conduct an extensive research project of their own choosing through the Honors Program. Students may use the program as a capstone, to further explore a topic covered in a previous seminar or as a first step towards graduate school. Students who have completed the program take great pride in this challenging, culminating experience of their undergraduate career.

The Honors Program features a three-semester sequence, totaling 12.0 credits over the course of their junior and senior year. Students enroll in a HIS 300W-level seminar by Fall or Spring semester of their junior year. They must earn no less than an A- in this course to be considered for the Honors program. In Spring semester of their junior year, students enroll in HIS 299H (2.0 credits) to prepare them for thesis research and grant applications. Students will prepare their research proposal during Spring semester. If their proposals are accepted, students will enroll in the following courses for their senior year: HIS 389H (4.0 credits with their advisor) in the Fall, HIS 393H (4.0 credits with advisor) and HIS 399H (2.0 credits with Honors Director) in the Spring.

This is a challenging process and is not meant for all History majors. The program is explicitly designed for students interested in researching and writing original theses, which they will revise over the course of the Fall and Spring of their senior year. It also provides students the opportunity of working closely with a faculty advisor who will help navigate them through the research process. The proposal process for Honors takes place during the Spring semester of junior year. The Undergraduate Studies committee will evaluate proposals on the basis of scholarly merit, viability and the student's ability to express ideas clearly. Not all proposals will be accepted.

Earning Honors in History is different from earning Latin distinctions. Students may graduate with distinction (3.7 GPA) or highest distinction in History (3.8 and above) without participating in the program. Along the same lines, completion of a senior thesis does not guarantee conferral of Honors. The final thesis must be of at least A- quality in order to secure honors. Two faculty members, the Thesis Advisor and Second Reader, determine the final grade. There is no appeals process.

### **Timeline**

During junior year, students enroll in HIS 299H (2.0 credits). As part of the course, they must carefully select a research topic, identify viable sources and submit a research proposal. Students planning on studying abroad must keep these requirements in mind. This may require students to plan for senior research during their first semester of junior year. Study abroad, however, need not be an impediment to pursuing the Honors Program as students may conduct preliminary research during this time. Students are strongly encouraged to compete for undergraduate research funding and to conduct as much research as possible in the summer between their junior and senior years.

### **Requirements for admission to Honors Program**

Completion of 300W-level history course with minimum A- grade by Fall or Spring of junior year

Completion of HIS 299H by end of junior year

Submission of research proposal form and signed faculty agreement form by April 1, 2021

3.5 GPA in History coursework

***Sample Timeline for current sophomores (F20/F21/S22 or S21/F21/S22 sequence)***

*Spring 2021 – Prospective Honors students enroll in HIS 299H for thesis preparation, course meets every other week (2.0 credits)*

Jan-Feb. 2021	preparation of research proposal (2-pg. statement, annotated bib., sources), meetings with potential thesis advisor
March 15, 2021	deadline for internal UofR research funding (Discover Grants, etc.)
April 1, 2021	submission of research proposals and faculty agreement to History Department (evaluated by Undergraduate Studies Committee)
April 2-5, 2021	students informed of research proposal acceptance, conditional acceptance or rejection
April 6, 2021	registration for Fall 2021 courses

*Summer 2021 – Students advance research (sources, archives, interviews, digitization, etc.)*

*Fall 2021 – Honors students pursue 389H Senior Thesis with their advisor*

early September 2021	initial meeting of Honors cohort
early October 2021	first section/chapter draft due
early December 2021	second section/chapter draft due
mid. December 2021	Advisor produces progress report, possible off-ramp (HIS 391W credit)

*Spring 2022 – Successful students enroll in 393H (w. advisor) and 399H (w. Honors Director)*

early February 2022	third section/chapter draft due
March 1, 2022	complete draft of thesis sent to Advisor
mid-Mar.-Apr 2022	students revise thesis, incorporate Advisor feedback
April 2022	preparation with speaking group, oral presentation techniques, etc.
late April 2022	final submission due to Advisor and Second Reader
early May 2022	Honors Colloquium