

Dr. Denise Spellberg, Director
GAR 3.208 spellberg@austin.utexas.edu

Application Deadline: October 12, 2018

The honors program in History aims to provide ambitious students the opportunity to do independent research in the form of a senior thesis. It is a three-semester program that begins with a small seminar on research and writing and continues with two semesters of independent research under the supervision of a faculty member and the completion of a 50 to 100-page thesis.

Students should apply during the early Fall of their junior year. Students should fill out the application online by the October 12, 2018 deadline. For more information, see the departmental website. Those considering the honors program may consult with the Director or the History Advising Office in their freshman or sophomore years for advice about preparation and scheduling. We encourage interested students to take upper division courses and seminars as soon as their schedules permit.

I. Program Coursework

Junior Year (Spring) HIS347L Seminar in Historiography

Senior Year (Fall) HIS679HA Honors Tutorial Course (senior thesis, first semester)

Senior Year (Spring) HIS679HB Honors Tutorial Course (senior thesis, second semester)

History 347L: Seminar in Historiography

Offered only in the spring, and taught by the honors director. The seminar in historiography is designed to prepare students for their senior research projects. Students are introduced to a variety of historical methods and approaches, they are required to write a thesis prospectus, and, with the help of the Honors director, they choose a thesis advisor from the History faculty. History 347L counts toward the thirty-hour history credit minimum required for the History major.

NOTE FROM HONORS DIRECTOR: We encourage students enrolled in the Honors Program to take other undergraduate seminar courses (History 350Ls or HIS 350Rs) in their field of interest. They provide valuable background and writing experience.

History 679HA, 679HB: Honors Tutorial Course (two semesters)

Each honors student researches and writes a senior thesis during the Fall and Spring semesters following HIS 347L. A History faculty advisor will supervise that work. The thesis must be based on the student's independent and original research in primary as well as secondary sources. It is usually between 50 and 100 pages in length and must earn a grade of "B" or better, to qualify the student for "Special Honors in History" upon graduation.

The faculty thesis advisor and a second reader grade each thesis. The second reader is usually an historian whose field is related to that of the thesis. In some cases, in which another discipline is involved, the second reader may be a member of another department. The honors director, the thesis advisor, and the student work out a timetable for completing the various stages of the work so that the thesis can be submitted a month prior to the end of the spring semester. Failure to complete the requirements by applicable deadlines will keep the student from graduating and/or receiving certain honors.

History 679HA/B *does not count* toward the department's thirty-hour requirement for history majors.

II. Eligibility for Honors program

We choose participants based on their writing sample, strength of background, commitment, and grades. We require only that applicants have a reasonable chance of meeting the final requirements (listed in section III) to graduate

with "Special Honors in History". If you are applying to the program, you should:

- have upper division standing
- have at least a 3.0 UT Austin GPA and a 3.5 GPA in HISTORY.
- plan to remain at the university for the next three semesters and complete at least 60 hours at UT Austin
- show the desire and ability to do intense research and writing

DOUBLE MAJORS, STUDY ABROAD, TRANSFERS, NORMANDY SCHOLARS, PLAN II:

- In many cases, students can combine Honors and studying abroad. Consult with the Honors Director.
- Normandy Scholar Program (NSP) students may substitute an approved upper-division NSP History course for the HIS 347L requirement.
- Transfer students should consult the Honors Director.
- Students hoping to do honors programs in two different majors (e.g., Government and History) need to write two separate theses or seek departmental honors in only one of their two majors.
- Plan II majors seeking "Special Honors in History" through the History Honors Program, should apply to the program and, once accepted, meet with the Plan II advisors to review procedures and options.

III. Final requirements at graduation

From Course Catalog for 2016-2018:

The requirements for graduation with special honors, which are in addition to the requirements of the major, are:

- **History 347L, *Seminar in Historiography*, taken in the spring semester of the junior year; this course may be counted toward the thirty hours in history required for the major;**
- **HIS 679H, *Honors Tutorial Course*, with a grade of at least B in each half;**
- **Satisfactory performance on an oral examination centered on the thesis completed in History 679HB;**
- **A University grade point average of at least 3.0 and a grade point of at least 3.50 in the coursework required for the major and for honors; and**
- **Completion in residence at the University of at least sixty semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.**

Normandy Scholar Program (NSP) students may substitute an approved upper-division NSP History course for the History 347L requirement. In general, failure to meet all requirements will not keep a student from graduating, but the student would not receive "Special Honors in History".

IV. Funding for Thesis Research

There are multiple Department of History Scholarships available.

Please visit the Departmental website for more information and scholarship application details.

<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/history/undergraduate/financial-aid.php>