

## Upcoming Changes to the History 101 Senior Thesis

The new Department of History undergraduate major capstone requirement, History 101, will have two options beginning in Fall 2019. Students will choose **ONE of the following two options**:

- 1) a **one-term senior project track**. This capstone requirement will make students **eligible for honors**, but not for high or highest honors. More details follow below.
- 2) a **one-year senior thesis track**. This thesis track will allow eligibility to honors, but it will be the sole track to gain eligibility to **high and highest honors** (though such an outcome is not guaranteed if students take this path). More details follow below.

This new infrastructure continues to offer **all** history majors a rigorous final project experience and the possibility of achieving **honors** in the major.

### **I. The One-Term Senior Project Track**

The one-term senior project preserves the option for all of our majors to be eligible for honors by offering a capstone requirement that will normally be a serious research paper that we have traditionally called the senior thesis.

- It will be reduced to 4 units from its current 5 unit status.
- Expectations for the one-term senior thesis in terms of page length and scholarly engagement will be a paper of between 25-30 pages. Note that ambitious and organized students might opt for the one-semester thesis, for reasons including participating in study abroad or double majoring.

### **II. The One-Year Senior Thesis Track**

Prerequisites for participating students:

- 3.5 overall GPA and 3.7 major GPA at time of application to the two-semester program (only UC courses count toward major GPA)
- on track to have completed 90 units before the end of their junior year
- at least four upper-division history courses completed
- In the spring one year before intended graduation, students must apply to complete a one-year senior thesis. Applications will be vetted by the Faculty Committee on Honors, which will also link students with appropriate faculty to supervise the one-year senior thesis in cases where students have not already done so.

(One-Year Senior Thesis Track, cont'd)

- In senior fall, honors students will enroll in an independent study (199) with their faculty advisors while they develop their topic, identify and work through relevant primary and secondary sources, sharpen their questions, and produce a robust prospectus.
- In senior spring, honors students enroll in a 101. A standard fall/spring sequence for the one-year senior thesis is expected.
- The page range of the one-year thesis will be 45-60 pages.

### **III. Honors**

All majors will be eligible for honors, but only students who undertake a one-year thesis shall be eligible for High or Highest Honors.

[Other changes in the Honors requirements beginning Fall 2019 will be posted here \(click link\) soon.](#)

#### **Potential Alternatives to the Research Paper Thesis**

Students may petition the Honors Committee and/or CHUM to substitute an alternative project for the traditional research paper. Possibilities may include, but are not limited to, a short film documentary, an oral history project, or an internship with a serious history component, such as a museum or historical society. In most of these cases, a lengthy written report on the project will be required. In all cases, students must have a history faculty sponsor and also be enrolled in a 101.