

**Department of History
Honors Program
Social Studies**

The Honors Program is intended to recognize those *Social Studies majors* who have demonstrated a sustained level of excellence in their studies.

Admission to the Honors Program in Social Studies

A student must have

- * a minimum of **12** credit hours in the required courses for the Social Studies primary core, 8 of which must be History courses,
- * a GPA of at least 3.25 in courses counting towards the major in Social Studies,
- * a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

Honors Advising and Committee

Either the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Department Chair will advise Honors students. Once assigned an advisor, the student should meet with his/her advisor at least once a semester to monitor progress using the special honors advising form. Honors students will also be assigned a faculty committee of three, chosen by the Chair and the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Honors Coursework

To graduate with honors in Social Studies a student must designate and then complete four regularly scheduled upper-level courses with at least a 3.5 average.

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| course #1 | HIS 400: Students seeking honors in Social Studies must complete this course and produce a 25-page paper based on primary source research. |
| course #2 and 3 | Two designated 300 or 400-level HIS courses. In each of these courses students must complete a paper of at least 25 pages. It is recommended (but not required) that one of these papers be a historiographical essay. |
| course #4 | This 300 or 400-level course should be chosen from the student's secondary core and will be administered on a contract basis. |

** At the discretion of the course instructor and with the approval of the student's advisor and honors committee, the student may substitute a substantial alternative project for the papers in courses #2 and 3.

Students may **not** designate a course for Honors after it has begun. For this reason, it is imperative that students consult with their instructors, designating courses for honors and discussing the major paper or project to be completed. Once a course has been designated as an honors course the student and faculty member must complete an honors course contract which must be approved by the student's advisor.

Evaluation

The instructor of record in each of the designated classes will provide a written evaluation of the student's role in the class to include the following criteria as defined in the College's statement on Honors Programs:

- * active participation in the learning process
- * ability to critically evaluate arguments or evidence
- * ability to write in an integrative fashion

During the last semester the student must submit a portfolio containing each of the major papers and/or evidence of alternative projects. In addition the student must make a presentation to the honors committee. This presentation can be a synthesis of the student's overall work in the designated four courses or the presentation of one of the major projects or papers. Presentations can take traditional form but might also include a community presentation, video, etc. The honors committee will review the written work and evaluate the presentation to determine whether or not the work is of sufficient quality for the student to be accorded the Honors designation. The decision of the committee is final.