Senior Thesis in History Guidelines

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY

The Senior Thesis Option allows a highly qualified student to complete an original research paper directed by a faculty member in a specialized topic. Students completing a senior thesis should have an advantage when applying to graduate programs in history or related studies. Students must meet eligibility requirements and will be assigned to a thesis advisor based upon the proposed topic and the course load and availability of tenured or tenure track faculty.

1. Faculty Eligibility

- Only full time tenured or tenure track faculty may direct a senior thesis.
- Faculty should have a research field and/ or publications in the proposed area of specialization.
- Individual faculty may not direct more than two senior theses in an academic year.
- Individual faculty may not serve on more than two thesis committees each academic year.

2. Student Eligibility

Students requesting approval for Senior Thesis Credit must meet the following guidelines:

- GPA in History courses of 3.75
- Overall GPA 3.5
- Completion of one Research Seminar with a grade of "A"
- Senior status
- As this course is designed as a capstone experience, students must be registered for or have completed all requirements for the major.

3. Key Department Policies

The thesis advisor will receive credit toward reassigned time according to the college and departmental guidelines.

Advising a thesis will be evaluated in the Annual Review process as teaching, supervision and mentoring.

4. Application and Approval Process

Students must apply using the application form on the department website no later than **1 April for Fall semester** and no later than **1 November for Spring semester.**

Senior Thesis cannot be scheduled during the summer.

Students should discuss their proposal with their advisor and with the faculty member they hope to work with before submitting the application. Faculty workload will impact the chair's decision.

If approved, two additional faculty members will be chosen according to major field with one additional faculty member in the broader regional or geographical field and one outside that field for a committee of three. For example, if the thesis is to be written on a topic in US history, the committee will include an additional faculty member in US history and one faculty member from a non-western or European field in addition to the thesis advisor.

Once the committee has been determined and the student has met all requirements, the student must submit a research prospectus before the start of the semester for approval by the committee using the prospectus form on the website.

The thesis must be completed before the last scheduled day of classes for that term.

The thesis should be submitted by the thesis advisor to all committee members. During the final exam period the committee members will review the paper and determine if the student has met the criteria for receiving credit for a Senior Thesis.

Students completing a Senior Thesis will present their paper to the committee before final grades are due. The presentation is open to all students and faculty.

5. Minimum Criteria for Approval

The thesis must be based upon original research with evidence based substantially on primary sources.

The paper must include a thesis statement relevant to the major debates in the historiography of the topic.

The paper should meet minimum length requirements of at least 25, but no more than 30, pages double-spaced with one-inch margins not including notes.

Senior Thesis Application

This form must be completed and submitted to the Department of History and Philosophy by 1 April for Fall Semester and by 1 November for Spring Semester. Senior Thesis is not offered during the summer term. Handwritten forms will not be accepted.

Semester: Fall ____ Spring____

Name: _____ KSU Email: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

GPA in History: _____

Overall GPA: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Research Seminar

☐ **Completed**

☐ **Enrolled this semester**

Grade, if completed: _____

Advisor: _____

Advisor Signature: _____

Proposed Topic:

Proposed Thesis Advisor: _____

PREVIEW

Senior Thesis Prospectus

Semester: Fall ____ Spring____

Name: _____ KSU Email: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Thesis Title: _____

Thesis Advisor Name: _____

Thesis Advisor Signature: _____

Please provide a brief description of the research topic using 250 words or less.

PREVIEW