Graduation with Distinction: History (HISTORY)

**Procedure for selection of students**
Motivated and qualified history majors may enroll in the department's senior honors seminar sequence in the fall and spring with the permission of the seminar director(s). History majors normally apply for membership early in the spring of the junior year by submitting a research proposal and a faculty recommendation to the seminar director(s). Members of the honors seminar also work with a faculty supervisor who typically has expertise in their area of research.

**Expected product**
Students are expected to produce a well-written senior thesis based in substantial engagement with primary sources and providing an original contribution to historical knowledge. History theses at Duke tend to range from 80-120 pages.

**Evaluative body**
A committee consisting of three members of the faculty.

**Evaluation procedure**
The faculty committee evaluates the thesis and determines the appropriate level of distinction earned.

**Levels of distinction**
Three levels: Distinction, High Distinction, and Highest Distinction. The level is determined by the faculty committee upon review of the senior thesis. An outstanding thesis may also receive the William T. Laprade prize.

**Special courses, other activities required, comments**
Students usually take the senior honors seminar sequence HISTORY 197S (fall) and HISTORY 198S (spring). However, the thesis may be written outside this sequence. Participants in the honors seminar also work closely with their faculty thesis advisor during both semesters of the senior year, usually through an independent study each semester. Most students also begin their thesis research during the summer before the senior year.

See Also:
- [Department of History](#)
- [Graduation with Distinction](#)