HONORS PROGRAM

The Spanish Honors Program and the Portuguese Honors Program are designed for students who wish to take advantage of an academic challenge beyond the requirements of the departmental major. It provides highly motivated students with the opportunity for tutorial instruction and independent research during the junior and senior years of their undergraduate study. The Honors Committee of the Department solicits from the faculty nominations for the Honors Program and then screens and interviews the nominees in order to admit into the program those who are most likely to succeed. Students may, in addition, apply directly to the program by contacting the departmental Honors Advisor or the Administrative Undergraduate Secretary. To be eligible, a student must ordinarily have an overall 3.35 grade-point average with a 3.5 average in their major courses, either Spanish or Portuguese, and also have completed course work at the 300-level of their major. It is expected that the student will maintain the above GPAs until graduation.

THE HONORS SEMINAR

As preparation for the senior-year project, each Honors student normally takes the S498 Readings for Honors or P498 Portuguese Honors Seminar, ideally in the junior year. It is strongly recommended that the student write at least one 10-page paper in a 400-level course. S498/P498 affords an intensive study of literature and other areas of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian culture, through readings, discussion, and, especially, the writing of a 10-page paper.

THE HONORS THESIS

The heart of the Spanish and Portuguese Honors Program is the senior year thesis, an independent project that a student undertakes with the help of a faculty director and two faculty readers, selected by the student in consultation with the Honors Advisor. The topic of the thesis can focus on any area of Hispanic or Luso-Brazilian literature, language, or culture. The student may earn up to three hours of credit for S499/P499. These credits do not count toward the required hours of the major. The honors thesis is conceived as a special project to be completed in addition to the usual requirements. The credits count towards completion of the Honors degree. The thesis may also be designed to include interests of the student's minor field of study, a second major or the student's special interest, in which case one reader should be a member of the minor field or second major department. The thesis will vary in length according to the nature of the project—30 pages is a reasonable minimum—and must follow the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. The student will normally meet weekly or every two weeks with a faculty director and hand in early drafts of the project to the director. Copies of the final draft of the project will be delivered to the two faculty readers no later than three weeks before the end of the semester. Once the thesis has been approved by the student's committee, the student will deliver two copies of the final, approved project to the faculty director; one copy will remain in the permanent files of the department. The grade for S499/P499 is determined by the thesis director, in consultation with the two faculty readers.

NOTE:

On the basis of the student's performance in S498/P498, continued high GPA, the thesis, and a possible oral defense of the thesis, the Honors Committee decides whether or not the student is to graduate with Honors in Spanish or Portuguese.

If the Honors candidate plans to study abroad, arrangements can be made for meeting the requirements of the program. In this case, the student should select a faculty advisor and the thesis project before departure.

With its emphasis on creativity, individual expression through writing and other language skills, the program will provide strong training for anyone interested in such disciplines as Law, Business, Journalism, and Communications, as well as students who plan to enter a graduate program in the humanities. It can also be valuable for students as yet undecided about their career future.
Other Suggested Activities

Honors students are encouraged to engage in other activities related to their thesis projects that will further enrich their Honors experience. Among these are:

► a formal presentation of their thesis project, to be given in an undergraduate class for which the topic would be relevant or in another setting chosen in consultation with their faculty director
► participation in one or more research-related sessions, such as a workshop on web and other library research strategies
► participation in an Honors thesis discussion group facilitated by the graduate student Honors Committee member

RECENT HONORS THESES:

Karen Carter Biddle, "José Asunción Silva’s De sobremesa: The Painting-Literature Connection and the Evolution of the Pre-Raphaelite Woman" 2002 (Dávila)

Katherine Ruddick, "La boca en flor: Delmira Agustini and the Feminine Poetic Identity" 2002 (Larson)

Kathleen Plinske, "A study of factors affecting interpretation of clitic pronouns in Spanish" 2001 (Geeslin)

Jason Jones, "El mundo fantástico de Julio Cortázar" 2000 (Bieder)

Jeremiah Byrd, "Internet Relay Chat (IRC) and Spanish Word Order" 2000 (Clements)

Andrew J. Koontz-Garboden, "Encuentro de dos culturas: Spanish/English Language Contact in Goshen, Indiana" 1999 (Lee and Clements)

Kelly Johnson, "An Investigation of Parody in Don Quijote de la Mancha" 1998 (Larson)

Pei June Tsai, "Magical Realism and the Fantastic: A Comparative Analysis of Fuentes’ Aura and Escándalo by Shusaku Endo" 1998 (Dávila)

Kimberly Katte, "Feminismo y feminidad en Los pazos de Ulloa y Solitud" 1998 (Sobrer)

Brandi Wills, "La psicología femenina en la trilogía de Federico García Lorca" 1998 (Friedman)

Mara Slattery, "Historical Reality and Autobiographical Fiction in Conversación en la catedral" 1997 (Dávila)

Beth L. Farkas, "José Emilio Pacheco’s ‘La fiesta brava’: A Translation and Commentary" 1997 (Dávila)

Lisa Marie Buczkowski, “La importancia del nombre y de la función en San Manuel Bueno, mártir y Nada menos que todo un hombre de Miguel Unamuno” 1997 (Impey)

Note: Honors theses can be consulted in Ballantine Hall 844

For additional information please contact:
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