HONORS PROGRAM

The Spanish and Portuguese Honors Programs offer outstanding students the option to engage in independent research, reading, and writing in Spanish or Portuguese during their junior and/or senior years of undergraduate study. The Honor Programs provide highly motivated students an opportunity to hone their critical, analytical, and organizational skills, while further consolidating their Spanish or Portuguese, through tutorial instruction and independent research on an aspect of Luso/Hispanic literatures, cultures, or linguistics, culminating in the writing of an 30-50-page honors thesis.

To be eligible, a student must have an overall grade point average of 3.350 with at least a 3.500 average in their Spanish or Portuguese major courses and have completed all required coursework at the 300 level for their major. It is expected that the student will maintain the above GPAs until graduation. Qualified students are encouraged to apply directly to the program by contacting the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the administrative undergraduate secretary.

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, linguistics, or other areas of Hispanic 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, linguistics, or cultures.

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 could 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 style of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. The student will normally meet every two weeks or as agreed 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, critical and analytical thinking, individual expression through writing and other language skills, the program will provide strong training for anyone interested in a variety of professions and career paths in which good organization, time management, research, and communication skills are valued, including fields such as Law, Politics, Journalism, Communications, Education, Business, Advertising, and Health. It is also the perfect training for students planning on entering a MA or Ph.D. program in the Humanities or Social Sciences.
**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 at an undergraduate research conference, 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:**

Matthew Cinkoske, “Rompiendo el hielo:” la adquisición de las expresiones idiomáticas en el español como 2ª lengua. Spring 2018 (Prof. Geeslin)

Andrew Killion, “El valor semántico de los diminutivos en el español chileno”. Spring 2018 (Prof. Amaral)

Neeta Patwari, “El uso de las pinturas de castas en la creación del concepto de raza en México colonial”. Spring 2018 (Prof. Rosenthal)

Caitlin Mulholland, “Las tres caras de la feminidad Examinando las hermanas Mirabal como símbolos femeninos”. Fall 2017 (Prof. Rosenthal)

Rachael Bradshaw, “¿No podrá serlo al doble / del caballero el criado?”: La subversión del gracioso en el teatro español del siglo XVII. Spring 2017 (Prof. Wagschal)

Christopher Brown, “Dos mundos frente a frente”: Espacios, límites y transgresiones en Madrid, de Corte a checa (1938) de Agustín de Foxá”. Spring 2017 (Prof. Wagschal)

Victoria Collins, “Broma nada más”: un análisis crítico de la formación de identidades masculinas en los discursos de estudiantes universitarios peruanos. Spring 2017 (Prof. Díaz-Campos)

Jayme Gerring, “The Inescapable Swamp: Elements of the Gothic in Lucrecia Martel’s La ciénaga”. Spring 2017 (Prof. Risner)

**Note:** Honors thesis can be consulted in GISB 2169