

PRELIMINARY APPLICATION TO WRITE AN HONORS THESIS

If you do not write a thesis you will take another 400-level seminar and an elective before graduation. Please speak with your academic advisor and plan accordingly. Students who have earned a minimum 3.5 GPA in at least 5 history department courses (including up to two courses taken abroad) and at least a B+ in HIST 0600, are eligible to write a two-term honors thesis (HIST 0700). See information below.

Some Dates to Keep in Mind

The deadlines listed below are for *all* thesis writers, both Fall-Winter and Winter-Spring. Adhering to the spring deadlines is important, since the department needs to be able to plan for thesis advising for the following year well *ahead of time*.

By April 14, 2026: Send an e-mail to Sheerya Berg: shberg@middlebury.edu, the history coordinator, letting her know that you intend to submit an application to write a senior thesis. Subject heading: History Thesis.

Between April 6-April 17, 2026: Consult faculty members in department and potential advisors about thesis topic.

By Monday April 20, 2026: Submit preliminary proposal for consideration (See below). To articulate your interest in a senior thesis topic, you will create a preliminary prospectus and bibliography before April 20, 2026. Please send to Sheerya Berg: shberg@middlebury.edu. **Subject heading: History thesis proposal.** This two-page document will serve as a declaration of your desire to pursue a particular line of historical inquiry and will give the department faculty a good indication of how grounded you have become in that topical area.

On page one of this prospectus, please indicate: 1) Your name 2) The semesters in which you hope to write your thesis 3) A working idea for your thesis 4) A one-paragraph description of your proposed project 5) An indication of faculty member/s you think might be appropriate as a thesis adviser.

On page two please include a working bibliography, divided into sections for primary and secondary sources. The department will notify you before the end of the semester who your thesis adviser will be. We encourage you to continue to read and think about your thesis over the summer months.

April 2026: Registration Period: You should register for **HIST 0700 A** and **HIST 0700 Z** during Fall 2025 Registration. You will be required to attend the senior thesis discussion in the Fall and Winter terms.

May-September: Sometime before the beginning of fall semester, faculty leading the senior workshop will decide on your thesis advisor. Your registration will be moved from the A section to your respective section of your thesis advisor. Due dates for all aspects of your thesis writing are listed on the Thesis Guide online under Student Resources.

(See next page for application.)

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History Senior Thesis: Please provide the following information to indicate your eligibility and intention to write a senior thesis.

Name:

Themes/Topics that you may explore in your thesis:

Possible advisors: Please find out which faculty will be on sabbatical or leave next year and thus will not be able to advise you.

- 1.
- 2.

Year and Semester of Graduation:

List the classes you've taken that count toward the History major and the grade you received:

Course	Grade	Course	Grade

Grade in HIST 0600:

If you are currently enrolled in HIST 0600 or you intend to take HIST 0600 in the fall, the department will give you provisional permission to write a thesis if you have met the other criteria. Please add any additional comments that you would like the department to know below.

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Working Bibliography

Primary Sources

Secondary Sources