

Senior Italian Honors Thesis

Majors in Italian who have maintained a G.P.A. of 3.5 overall and in the major, and have completed at least two quarters as juniors, qualify to pursue a senior thesis. Those who successfully complete this project (with a grade of A- or higher) will graduate with honors; their diplomas and transcripts will read "Distinction in the Major."

Specific guidelines for completing the Honors Thesis are outlined below.

1. To participate in this program, you should seek the guidance of a faculty member as soon as possible to serve as your Thesis Advisor. We strongly encourage you to start in the fall quarter of your senior year to find a faculty member. Any Affiliate ladder faculty member or continuing/visiting lecturer is an acceptable Thesis Advisor. If you want to do a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member outside of the department, fill out the thesis proposal and submit it to the Undergrad Advisor for Italian. The Chair of the Program will notify you if a co-supervisor is required.
2. Please fill out the attached form, and write a statement of purpose, with a tentative title and the texts you plan to read, describe briefly the topic to be studied, and, if available, attach a list of primary and secondary sources. Please submit a written proposal to the professor whom you would like to supervise your thesis. Send your proposal, signed by the proposed Thesis Advisor, to the Italian Undergraduate Advisor at least two quarters before the quarter in which you will complete your thesis, even if you are not registered for that quarter or you are abroad.
3. Once he/she has agreed to supervise your work in Italian literature and/or Italian interdisciplinary studies, please enroll in an Italian 195H with this professor (for a maximum of 4 units). You will receive this add code from the Undergrad Advisor for Italian. The total amount of academic credit that can be earned for a thesis may not exceed 8 units. Note that one unit corresponds to 3 hours of work per week in a 10-week quarter. You can enroll in only 1 quarter (ITAL 195H) or 2 quarters, with one quarter being a prep quarter (ITAL 199) and then the final quarter (ITAL 195H), although a prep quarter is not necessary. ITAL 195H will be completed additional to the major.
4. You will then begin preparing a Senior Honors Essay, an in-depth research paper, which should be at least 20 pages long and in Italian (double spaced).
7. You must submit one copy of your final thesis as a pdf document to the Italian Undergraduate Advisor. It should be formatted as a double-spaced document and according to the format of graduate theses, using MLA format for citation (see sample at: <http://graddiv.ucsb.edu/handbook/filingguide.aspx>).
8. Your thesis must be signed by your Thesis Advisor (see #7 below for the right format).

The Italian Senior Honors Thesis Prize

Senior honors students who complete their projects by mid-May may submit their essays for consideration for the Italian Senior Honors Thesis Prize, a special recognition awarded annually to the best Honors essay dealing with a research topic in Italian language, literature and/or culture. The Prize, which has for many years been supported by the Italian Cultural Heritage Foundation of Santa Barbara (ICHF) comes with a generous cash award. It is awarded at the annual honors ceremony every Spring.

Honors Thesis Proposal in Italian

You may attach a list of primary and secondary sources.

1. Today's Date: _____

2. Name of Student: _____

3. Statement of Purpose: _____

4. Faculty Thesis Advisor (Name, Department):

5. GPA in ITAL: _____ Overall G.P.A: _____

6. Number of ITAL Units completed as a Junior: _____

7. Expected schedule of Completion: _____

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Faculty Advisor: _____

Signature of the Department Chair: _____

[For Department Use Only]: Received by: _____ Approved by: _____

