

LSC Use Only  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action-Date: \_\_\_\_\_

UWUCC USE Only  
Number: 01-150a  
Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action-Date: App 12/11/01  
Senate App 1/29/02

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL COVER SHEET  
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

I. CONTACT

Contact Person Charles Cashdollar Phone 72513

Department HISTORY

II. PROPOSAL TYPE (Check All Appropriate Lines)

\_\_\_\_\_ COURSE \_\_\_\_\_  
Suggested 20 character title

\_\_\_\_\_ New Course \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Number and Full Title

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Revision \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Number and Full Title

\_\_\_\_\_ Liberal Studies Approval + \_\_\_\_\_  
for new or existing course Course Number and Full Title

\_\_\_\_\_ Course Deletion \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Number and Full Title

\_\_\_\_\_ Number and/or Title Change \_\_\_\_\_  
Old Number and/or Full Old Title

\_\_\_\_\_ New Number and/or Full New Title

\_\_\_\_\_ Course or Catalog Description Change \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Number and Full Title

PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor  Track

\_\_\_\_\_ New Program \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Name

Program Revision \* HISTORY DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM  
Program Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Deletion \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Title Change \_\_\_\_\_  
Old Program Name

\_\_\_\_\_ New Program Name

III. Approvals (signatures and date) 9/22/00  
Wayne K. Borer / Chair  
Department Curriculum Committee

Stanley Sadler 9/26/00  
Department Chair

W. V. Boone  
College Curriculum Committee

Stanley Sadler 2/21/2001  
College Chair

+ Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable)

\* Provost (where applicable)

NOV 20  
LIBERAL STUDIES

Rev.

**PROGRAM REVISION  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM**

PART II. Description of Curriculum Change

1. Catalog Description for the revised program

**History Honors Program** **9 sh**

Open by departmental permission to history, history pre-law, and social studies education/history majors with at least a 3.25 QPA in total university coursework and a 3.5 QPA in history courses. Students complete at least one semester of HI 487 Honors Colloquium (a variable-topic course open also to students in the Robert E. Cook Honors College) and two semesters of honors thesis research and writing. Honors theses are completed individually under the direction of a department professor who specializes in the student's area of interest and are approved by a thesis committee comprised of the director and two other readers, one of whom may come from outside the history department. Honors history courses count toward the major; completion of an honors thesis substitutes for HIST 480 Senior Seminar.

Students interested in the history honors program should discuss this opportunity as early as possible with their advisers. Students may file a declaration of intent during the sophomore year; a formal application for admission must be made, normally early in the junior year. The program is particularly encouraged for students intending to seek admission to graduate or professional schools. Honors coursework is designated on university transcripts; students completing the departmental honors program are recognized at departmental commencement ceremonies.

- HIST 487 Honors Colloquium in History 3 sh
  - HIST 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study 6 sh\*
- \*two semesters, 3sh each

2. Summary of Changes

a. Table comparing old and new programs.

OLD PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM
HIST 483 Independent Study 6 sh	HIST 487 Honors Colloquium 3sh HIST 483 Honors Thesis/Independent Study 6 sh

b. List of all associated course changes:

Revised title and course description for HIST 483

3. Rationale for Change.

The History Department's Honors Program has been serving students since the fall of 1963 when a non-credit bearing thesis option was offered to students in the Social Science Department. The following year, the format of a yearlong tutorial culminating in a significant research paper became an official, credit-bearing university program. When the former Social Science department divided into disciplinary departments in the late 1960s, the practice of offering honors theses was carried over into the history department. Credit has been registered through the "independent study" format under the course number HIST 483--an honors version of the regular independent study number HIST482.

After 37 years, five factors suggest the need for revision, formalization, and strengthening of the program:

(1) the encouragement of the provost's office to create stronger, regularized departmental honors programs;

(2) the encouragement of the president and the admissions office for departmental programs to recruit outstanding students;

(3) the establishment of the Robert E. Cook Honors College which has added to the number of strong history majors already present in the department;

(4) the creation of HIST 487 Honors Colloquium in 1999 making it possible to have a "group" honors experience in which honors students can reinforce each others' achievements as an addition to the existing "individual" thesis experience;

(5) the increasing competitiveness of graduate school admissions which makes undergraduate research, conference presentations, and publications more necessary.

### III. Implementation.

1. How will the proposed revision affect students already in the existing program?

Current juniors and seniors may follow the new program or the old program; current freshmen and sophomores and future students must complete the new program for departmental recognition.

2. How will the proposed revision affect faculty teaching loads?

Adequate sections of HIST 487 are currently in the department's course rotation. Honors theses are covered by the independent study formula.

3. Other resources needed?

None.

4. Do you expect an increase or decrease in the number of students as a result of these revisions? If so, how will the department adjust?

We do not think this change will add significantly to the total number of majors, but we do believe that by better publicizing the departmental honors program and highlighting the success of recent majors (e.g. 1998, 1999, and 2000 seniors admitted to graduate programs at Yale, Carnegie-Mellon, Georgetown, Wisconsin, and UCLA), we will be able to recruit and retain a few additional students of high ability. Seats are available in HIST 487 and, we believe that our full contingent of faculty can handle the small number of additional theses that we might optimistically anticipate.

### PART IV. Course Proposals

Revised Title and Course Description for HIST 483

### PART V. Letters of Support.

Dr. Janet Goebel

Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705-1087

(412) 357-2100

4



November 7, 2000

Dear Colleagues,

I write in support of the proposed revision of the History Department's Honors Program.

This revised program would provide academically strong history majors with the opportunity to pursue more demanding individual research projects, thus enhancing their education and enabling them to present stronger credentials when applying for graduate programs or professional positions.

The program also would support the goals of the Robert E. Cook Honors College, and it is in line with the provost's current encouragement of departmental honors programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet E. Goebel".

Janet E. Goebel