History majors who wish to work individually with a member of the department may register for a one- or two-term independent senior thesis section; however, only independent thesis writers who complete the thesis in two consecutive terms may compete for spring honors and prizes*.* Students who pursue an independent senior thesis option should identify an appropriate supervisor ***in the term before beginning the thesis***. The proposal, approved by the supervisor, should be forwarded to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Caterina Pizzigoni, at [cp2313@columbia.edu](mailto:rab4@columbia.edu) before the beginning of the thesis term: by **August 1st for the fall term** and **December 1st for the spring term** (if intending to write a one-term thesis in the spring). Please copy Sia Mensah at [sjm2206@columbia.edu](mailto:sjm2206@columbia.edu) on the proposal submission email.

Independent theses must be read and graded in conjunction with a second faculty reader approved by the supervisor and the DUS; the second reader can be chosen after the term begins. For more information, download the second reader info sheet on the History Department’s website.

Application Cover Sheet

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **Telephone:** |
| **E-mail:** @columbia.edu | **GPA in History:** |
| **School (select one**)**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Columbia College **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**General Studies | |
| **Specialization within major:** | |
| **Second major or concentration:** | |
| **Languages other than English in which you can conduct research:** | |
| **History Seminar for which you wrote a paper based on primary research:** | |
| **Independent Study Course [select applicable course(s)]:**  INDEPENDENT SENIOR THESIS HISTORY HIST UN3840 (Fall term)  INDEPENDENT SENIOR THESIS HISTORY HIST UN3841 (Spring term) | |
| **Faculty Supervisor:** | |
| **Faculty Supervisor’s signature:** | |

Application Materials Checklist:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Application Cover Sheet (with seminar time slot selected) |
|  | 1-2 page Thesis Overview |
|  | Writing Sample |

Thesis Overview

Please address the following questions in a 1-2 page, double-spaced response:

1. Have you selected a specific topic (i.e. The history of Columbia University’s History Department) or a general subject area (i.e. postwar France) for your thesis project? What do you intend to investigate and why?
2. What previous academic experiences have led you to select this thesis topic or idea? Consider relevant courses, seminars, research opportunities, etc.
3. List 3-4 relevant sources that may assist you with your research.

Writing Sample

Please include a paper that demonstrates your research, writing, and analytical skills.