HIS-411 Capstone Rubric (to assess History Department SLOs 3 & 4)

SLO3: Historical Research	Students will conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources	Not met	Basic	Proficient
Does the paper pose a focused, significant, and researchable question?	 The paper poses a problem of interpretation or explanation rather than merely narrating an episode or discussing a topic from an ahistorical perspective The scope of the paper is well-defined, feasible, and focused. 			
Is the paper built upon a sufficient, appropriate, and effective research bibliography?	 The paper relies on a sufficient range of secondary sources. The bibliography consists of credible scholarly sources. The bibliography is directly relevant to the research problem. 			
Does the paper demonstrate the skillful utilization and interpretation of primary sources?	 The paper addresses a sufficient array of primary sources relevant to the research question. The paper evaluates primary sources according to the historical contexts of their production. The analysis is sophisticated, and appropriately evaluates the primary sources according to their credibility, authority, authenticity, consistency, completeness, bias, and propagandistic agenda. 			
OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF SLO3 (Historical Research)				
SLO4: Historical Interpretation	Students will use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.	Not met	Basic	Proficient
Is the paper organized around a coherent and persuasive thesis?	 The thesis is clear, substantial, and appropriate to the historical discipline. The thesis goes beyond summarizing others' scholarship to reflect the student's own research and discovery process. 			
Does the paper integrate evidence effectively?	 The paper effectively subjects primary and secondary sources to a recognizable method of historical analysis acceptable to the discipline. The paper effectively, appropriately, and accurately summarizes and synthesizes the scholarship in the research bibliography. The paper's argument builds from or responds to the scholarship in the research bibliography. 			
Is the documentation effective, accurate, and complete?	 The paper documents evidence with effective and appropriate citations. The notes and bibliography are complete, accurate, and follow established style guidelines. 			
Is the writing clear and effective?	 The paper deploys paraphrasing and quotations effectively and appropriately. The prose is compelling and engaging with well-phrased, grammatically correct sentences that vary in length and structure, and are linked by smooth and effective transitions. Ideas are arranged logically and flow smoothly and coherently from one point to another. 			
OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF SLO4 (Historical Interpretation)				

Revised 1/24/2018

Student name _____