### HISTORY DEPARTMENT RUBRIC FOR HIS-511 (to assess learning goals 3 and 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLO3: Historical Research</th>
<th>Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criteria to evaluate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Components to consider</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 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.  
• The scope of the paper is well-defined and focused. |
| Does the paper construct an appropriate research bibliography? | • The paper uses an appropriate variety of scholarly sources.  
• The bibliography is directly relevant to the research problem.  
• The bibliography demonstrates historiographical dimensions to the research problem. |
| Does the paper demonstrate skillful utilization and interpretation of secondary sources? | • The paper interprets a variety of secondary sources.  
• The paper adequately synthesizes different scholars’ approaches to the problem. |
| Does the paper demonstrate skillful utilization and interpretation of primary sources? | • The paper cites sufficient primary sources relevant to the problem.  
• The primary sources are relevant and original.  
• The paper critically evaluates primary sources in the complex historical contexts in which they were produced. |

**OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF SLO3 (Historical Research)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLO 4: Historical Interpretation</th>
<th>Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.</th>
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<td><strong>Components to consider</strong></td>
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</table>
| Is the paper organized around a coherent and persuasive thesis? | • The thesis is clear and substantial.  
• The paper’s argument supports the thesis. |
| Does the paper integrate evidence effectively? | • The paper deploys primary and secondary sources effectively to support the argument. |
| Is the documentation effective, accurate and complete? | • The paper documents evidence via the effective and appropriate use of citations.  
• The footnotes/endnotes are complete and accurate and follow established style guidelines.  
• Bibliographic entries are complete and accurate, and follow established style guidelines. |
| Is the writing clear? | • The paper deploys paraphrasing and quotations effectively and appropriately.  
• The prose is compelling and engaging with well-phrased, grammatically-correct sentences that are varied in length and structure, and 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)**

Approved 11/7/14