

WRITTEN DISSERTATION EVALUATION RUBRIC

School: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | Department: History

Area	Outstanding – 4	Very Good – 3	Acceptable – 2	Unacceptable - 1
Introduction/Statement of the Problem	Exceptionally clear about its research topic and what questions and problems it addresses and answers	States very clearly its research topic and what questions and problems it addresses and answers	Offers acceptable discussion of its research topic and what questions and problems it addresses	Insufficiently clear about its research topic and what questions and problems it addresses and answers
Thesis/Discussion	Exceptionally clear or strong; thesis amply supported	Very clear or strong; thesis successfully supported	Acceptable; adequate support of thesis	Lacks a clear or strong thesis and does not support its argument
Historiography	Exceptional command	Very good command	Acceptable command	Unacceptable command
Methodology/Approach	Exceptional command of languages, methodologies, and theories used	States very clearly languages, methodologies, and theories used	Makes acceptably clear the languages, methodologies, or theories used	Insufficient use of languages. Methodologies, or theories used
Primary Sources	Source base consists of new or little-studied primary sources, or innovative use of familiar sources, in the original language	Source base consists of more than adequate primary sources in the original language	Source base consists of adequate primary sources in the original language	Source base has few, or no, primary sources in the original language
Factual Accuracy/ Analysis/Interpretation	Analysis and interpretation unusually effective and convincing; unusually accurate	Analysis and interpretation effective and convincing; factually accurate	Acceptable analysis and interpretation; adequately accurate	Insufficient analysis or interpretation; factual errors
Contribution to the Field	Unusually important or original contribution to historical knowledge	Significant and original contribution to historical knowledge	Modest contribution to historical knowledge	Little or no contribution to historical knowledge
Writing/Argumentation	Exceptionally clear, logical, beautiful, eloquent; excellent use of primary source evidence in argument	Clear, fluid, compelling; well-chosen, convincing use of primary source evidence in argument	Adequate writing or argumentation; adequate use of primary source evidence in argument	Unacceptable, unclear, illogical or faulty; poor use of primary source evidence in argument
Conclusion	Unusually effective and convincing	Very effective and convincing	Acceptably effective and convincing	Lacks an effective and convincing conclusion
Overall	Extraordinary quality of the dissertation makes it worthy of an award	Solid, well-written and organized dissertation	Demonstrates competence	Poorly written, does not understand basic concepts