

**Table 3: Thesis Rubric aligned with Department Goals
Senior Thesis Evaluation Rubric**

Component	Maximum Points	Comments
Cover Page	2	Thesis will not be accepted absent a cover page.
25 pages of text	3	<p>Length was specified both as a measure of rigor (students should do a sustained writing project) and to enable students to fully implement the goal to have a student demonstrate his/her ability to “Identify the particular forces most relevant to the development of an idea or institution, and <i>trace the interactions of those forces through inception, development, transformation and decline</i>”</p> <p>This length will also allow students to demonstrate the ability to “<i>weigh evidence and arguments</i> that are essential for those who live in a rapidly changing world.”</p> <p>Finally, the length will allow students to “more fully appreciate the complexity of human experience.” Short essays do not allow sufficient space for the full appreciation of these complexities.</p>
25 sources (including some primary sources)	5	We require students to “develop the ability to weigh evidence and arguments that are essential for those who live in a rapidly changing world,” and this source requirement pushes them to engage a wide range of evidence in their thesis.
Citation according to Turabian Manual		
Footnotes	5	These are disciplinary standards that are necessary to “effective written communication” for history majors.
Bibliography	5	These are disciplinary standards that are necessary to “effective written communication” for history majors.
Total score for Thesis Structure components	20	
Historiographical Discussion		
Addresses the arguments of at least 10 historians.	5	This component derives from the department goal: “understand a work of literature in relation to literary and cultural history.”
Discusses the	5	This component addresses the department goal to: develop the “ability to weigh evidence and arguments

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evidence that these historians use.		that are essential for those who live in a rapidly changing world.”
Addresses these historians in relation to each other	5	Here too, students will demonstrate the “ability to weigh evidence and arguments that are essential for those who live in a rapidly changing world.”
Creates a central argument about the historians included in this historiographical essay.	5	This is a measure of the student’s ability to “develop effective written communication.”
Total Points for Historiographical Essay	20	
Clear argument-- your thesis’s thesis.	20	<p>Argument must address change or continuity over time.</p> <p>This derives from the department goal to : “Identify the particular forces most relevant to the development of an idea or institution, and trace the interactions of those forces through inception, development, transformation and decline”</p> <p>and the goal to...</p> <p>“develop effective written communication”</p>
Other elements of the Six Principles of Good Writing	40	These can be assessed however the faculty teaching the course chooses.
Total Points	100	This grade is for the thesis document itself. Faculty will also be free to evaluate the thesis “process” (how well did a student meet deadlines, come to meetings, and work on the project overall).