



## DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

### Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

**CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge):** Students will demonstrate that they have learned the vocabulary and concepts specific to the discipline of history. In addition, they will demonstrate their knowledge of those political, social, legal, and economic theories that have impacted the discipline of History through various oral and written assignments.

**CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Research Skills; Technical Skills):** Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct archival research utilizing both primary and secondary sources. They will develop procedural and technical skills involved in historical research such as library research, oral history, book review writing, and proper citations. Students will demonstrate their ability to construct bibliographical and historiographical essays, book reviews, annotated bibliographies, and research papers.

Every student majoring in history must successfully complete HIS 3150 (Introduction to Historical Studies). The types of assignments used in HIS 3150 that assess content knowledge include book reviews, bibliographic essays, historiographic essays, and research papers. Students in HIS 3150 will also submit a course portfolio of work that should demonstrate proficiency in research skills and technical skills.

**COMMUNICATION (Written Communication; Oral Communication):** Students will produce well-organized, well-conceptualized and grammatically correct writing for the discipline of history. They will also demonstrate knowledge of the Chicago Manual of Style in their written assignments. Students will also demonstrate effective oral communication skills by presenting a portion of the written work to other students in the class and to the professor.

In the required HIS 3150 and HIS 4935 seminars, students will produce research papers, book reviews, historiographical essays, and bibliographical essays that will be assessed for communication skills. Students may also write in-class thesis-driven essays under time constraints in response to selected questions. Student writing is expected to reflect organizational, analytical, and interpretative skills in the presentation of historical evidence.

In the HIS 3150 and HIS 4935 seminar, students will also demonstrate effective communication skills by making oral presentations of their written research.

**CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Students will engage in critical/reflective analysis and interpretation of materials derived from their independent research, use of primary documents, and assigned readings leading to the writing of a major paper in the discipline.**

Faculty members who teach HIS 4935 (Senior Seminar) will evaluate student research papers using a four-point rubric that indicates each student's level of proficiency in analyzing and evaluating historical documents, and in comparing and contrasting (judging) historical issues, theories, and events. All students will be provided the standards (rubric) in each class as part of the syllabus, or in the instructions for the assignment.