Requirements for HIST 481: Senior Seminar in History

--Student Enrollment: This capstone course is capped at 15 to ensure a focused, hands-on learning experience for history majors that will allow them to learn the critical reading and writing skills essential to the discipline and to the kinds of professional occupations in which many will participate.

--Syllabus: minimum requirements: Syllabi for all sections of this course must meet the university’s minimum syllabus requirements available at: [http://curricularservices.tamu.edu/files/syllabus/minimum_syllabus_requirements.pdf](http://curricularservices.tamu.edu/files/syllabus/minimum_syllabus_requirements.pdf) Prior to the start of every semester, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will review the syllabus for each section of the class to ensure it meets these requirements and those for this capstone course agreed to by the faculty and outlined here.

--Writing Instruction: Instructors must conduct some form of in-class writing instruction in at least three different class periods and clearly indicate on the syllabus the specific topic of discussion (e.g. prewriting, drafting, revision). Many instructors use the term "writing workshop" or "writing lab" for these discussions.

--Writing products: Final Research Paper: Instructors must assign a final research paper that is at least 2,000 words (8 pages)--most instructors assign double that length. The final research paper must incorporate both primary and secondary sources and the due date must be clearly indicated on the syllabus.

--Writing products: Draft of Final Research Paper: Instructors must assign a draft of the final research paper, indicate on the syllabus the due date (which must be at least three weeks prior to the due date for the final version of the paper), and provide constructive written feedback on the work to guide students in their final revisions. Many instructors also schedule individual student meetings to discuss their written comments and hold ‘peer review’ sessions for students to comment on each other’s written work.

--Evalative measures: graded writing assignments: The combination of finished, graded writing assignments (i.e. not drafts) must account for at least 33% of the final grade (most instructors set a much higher percentage) and instructors must indicate on the syllabus that students must pass the writing portion of the course to pass the class.