

In order to take HIST 495 you must be a last-semester senior History major in the Social Science Credential Option.

The purpose of HIST 495 is to assess your subject matter competence in History and Social Science. Three measures will be used to determine your subject matter competence: your grade point average (GPA) in Social Science Credential Option coursework, your portfolio, and an interview.

You are also required to complete a **Program Exit Survey**. The survey form should be completed on your computer, printed, sealed in an envelope with your name on it, and submitted as part of your portfolio. ***Failure to submit a completed Program Exit Survey will result in a grade of D or lower for HIST 495 and the denial of subject matter competency.***

Portfolio

Your portfolio may be submitted as soon as it is finished, but no later than the end of the seventh week of classes. It must be submitted in a loose-leaf binder, with dividers indicating Parts I, II, and III, as well as tabs or dividers indicating each pair of items included in Part II. The Table of Contents, Reflection, and Introductions (see below) must be typed.

Part I

- **Table of Contents:** Identify each item in Part II by its title, course name, course number, and instructor.
- **Reflection:** In two to three pages discuss your intellectual progress through the Social Science Credential Option.

Part II

- **Base Items:** The base portfolio should contain six to eight separate marked and graded items from your Social Science Credential Option coursework, such as research papers, book reviews, or annotated bibliographies, and should represent work from at least six courses and three departments. At least four items must come from History courses. No more than two items may be included from any one course. The research paper from HIST 490 and a significant portion of the teaching unit from HIST 392 *must* be included if you have completed those courses.
- **Introductions:** Each base item must be preceded by an introduction in which you explain in a paragraph or two why you selected that particular item for inclusion in your portfolio, what you regard as its best qualities, and how you believe it demonstrates your subject matter competence.

Part III

- **Complete transcript:** Your transcript must include *all* of your college and university coursework. Either secure an unofficial transcript from the Records Office or download it from the Portal.
- **Competency Checklist:** Your Competency Checklist must be completed electronically, then printed. Alteration of the formula in cell D2 will result in a failing grade for the course.
- **Program Exit Survey**

Interview

Following a review of your portfolio, you will be scheduled for an interview by a committee composed of History Department faculty. In the interview you may be asked general or specific questions about any of the History-Social Science content areas in which you have completed coursework, as well as about the contents of your portfolio.

Grading and Certification of Subject Matter Competence

A passing grade in HIST 495 is *not* the same as subject matter competence certification. **To be certified as subject matter competent you must receive at least a C- in HIST 495 and complete any remaining History-Social Science courses with a grade of B- or better in each.** If you do not receive at least a C- in HIST 495, you will still be able to establish your subject matter competence by achieving a passing score on the CSET: <http://www.cset.nesinc.com/>. You may earn maximums of 56 points for your GPA, 20 points for your portfolio, and 24 points for your interview – 100 points in all. Using your transcript for reference, fill in the Competency Checklist (available on the HIST 495 website) on your computer. The Checklist will compute your History-Social Science GPA. You are required to do so during the first week of the semester, since it will determine what is expected of you during the remainder of the semester, as well as the method you will use to demonstrate your subject matter competence.

- If your History-Social Science GPA is *below* the gray range on the GPA rubric on page 2, you will not be able to establish subject matter competence through the Social Science Credential Option. ***See the instructor immediately about taking the CSET to establish subject matter competence.***

- If your History-Social Science GPA is *above* the gray range on the GPA rubric, submit your transcript, completed Competency Checklist, and completed Program Exit Survey to the instructor. After the instructor verifies your GPA, you will be excused from assembling a portfolio and having an interview, and will receive an A in the course.
- If your History-Social Science GPA is *within* the gray range on the GPA rubric *and* the combined points for your GPA and portfolio total 71 or higher, you will be excused from having an interview. If your point total without the interview is 71-73, you will receive a grade of B+ in the course; if it is 74-75, you will receive an A-.

Major GPA Rubric: 56 Points

GPA	POINTS	GPA	POINTS	GPA	POINTS	GPA	POINTS
3.71-4.00	56	3.21-3.25	49	2.86-2.90	42	2.51-2.55	35
3.51-3.70	55	3.16-3.20	48	2.81-2.85	41	2.46-2.50	34
3.46-3.50	54	3.11-3.15	47	2.76-2.80	40	2.41-2.45	33
3.41-3.45	53	3.06-3.10	46	2.71-2.75	39	2.36-2.40	32
3.36-3.40	52	3.01-3.05	45	2.66-2.70	38	2.31-2.35	31
3.31-3.35	51	2.96-3.00	44	2.61-2.65	37	Below 2.31	Must take CSET
3.26-3.30	50	2.91-2.95	43	2.56-2.60	36		

Portfolio Rubric: 20 Points

	Superior	Adequate	Inadequate	Poor
Form	All items included and organized properly; attractive presentation 4 points	All items included and organized properly 3 points	One item missing, or portfolio complete but organized improperly 2 points	Items missing and/or poorly organized 2 points
Mechanics	0-3 grammatical, spelling or typographical errors in Table of Contents, Reflection, and Introductions 4 points	4-6 grammatical, spelling or typographical errors in Table of Contents, Reflection, and Introductions 3 points	7-9 grammatical, spelling or typographical errors in Table of Contents, Reflection, and Introductions 2 points	More than 9 grammatical, spelling or typographical errors in Table of Contents, Reflection, and Introductions 1 point
Content	Reflection and Introductions reveal insight into subject 12 points	Reflection and Introductions exhibit thought about subject 9 points	Reflection and Introductions are trite, pedestrian, or formulaic 6 points	Reflection and/or Introductions are too brief or missing 3 points

Interview Rubric: 24 Points

	Superior	Adequate	Inadequate	Poor
Factual knowledge	Exhibits extensive factual knowledge 16 points	Exhibits generally sound factual knowledge; some minor gaps 12 points	Exhibits limited factual knowledge; some major gaps or confusion 8 points	Exhibits significant confusion about facts 4 points
Historiographical knowledge	Exhibits historiographical knowledge in more than one field 4 points	Exhibits historiographical knowledge in one field 3 points	Exhibits little historiographical knowledge 2 points	Exhibits no evidence of historiographical knowledge 1 point
Historical thinking	Voluntarily exhibits historical thinking in answers or comments 4 points	Exhibits historical thinking in answers or comments when prompted 3 points	Exhibits little historical thinking in answers or comments 2 points	Exhibits no evidence of historical thinking 1 point

HIST 495 Grade Rubric: 100 Points

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
94-100	A	88-90	B+	81-83	B-	74-77	C	61-70	D
91-93	A-	84-87	B	78-80	C+	71-73	C-	<60	F