HIST 326 – Research Proposal Rubric

	Proficient (100-86%)	**Competent** (85-70%)	**Novice** (65-0%)
Presentation of Research Question (20%)	Proposes a unique research topic and offers nuanced and thoughtful research questions well suited to examining the topic.	Defines a well-stated research topic and presents research question(s) that clearly indicates the scope of the research project.	Does not articulate a clear topic and/or does not propose clear or coherent research questions.
Assessment of Existing Literature (30%)	Articulates a thoughtful and complex argument that encapsulates the scope and significance of relevant secondary literature.	Offers a clear argument for scope the and significance of relevant secondary literature.	Fails in crafting an argument defining the scope and significance of relevant secondary literature.
Proposed Research Plan (35%)	Proposes a nuanced plan for accessing secondary and primary sources (if applicable). Choice of sources and plan demonstrate a unique or innovative approach to the proposed research.	Articulates a clear plan for accessing secondary and primary sources (if applicable) relevant to the proposed research.	Does not offer an effective plan for accessing additional secondary sources and primary (if applicable) relevant to the proposed project.
Clarity of Written Expression (10%)	Uses clear, eloquent language to craft nuanced evidence-based arguments. Writing free from grammatical errors.	Uses clear, appropriate language to effectively express evidence-based arguments. Writing may have some minor grammatical mistakes.	Does not use clear and/or appropriate language. Argument does not mobilize evidence or does so ineffectively. Writing may have significant grammatical errors.
Citations and Bibliographies (5%)	Uses citations expertly to substantiate evidence-based arguments. Contains a properly formatted bibliography; annotations indicate unique insights into works.	Uses citations correctly to substantiate evidence-based arguments. May have some minor citation errors. Contains a properly formatted bibliography; annotations indicate competent evaluation of works.	Does not use citations appropriately to document evidence-based claims and/or has significant errors in citation style. Contains an improperly formatted bibliography and/or does not indicate effective evaluation or completeness.