

# Research Project Design

## Grading Rubric DRAFT

### Notes:

**I encourage students who disagree with their grades to contact me to request a reassessment, but I require them to address this grading rubric to explain where they think their grade was inaccurate or unfair.**

**This version of the rubric is based on a version of the assignment where students submit the proposal and annotated bibliography together, but in future versions I will be breaking those elements up into two parts and will be revising the syllabus to reflect this.**

The assessment of this assignment will be based on both Formal elements (20% of total grade) and Content elements (80% of total grade).

### **Formal Elements - 20% of grade**

#### **Basic Formal Requirements - 10%**

Your assignment needs to fulfill the basic formal requirements as described in the assignment description on Canvas. For example, that it be professional-looking, have a separate title page, etc.

This also includes your correct and consistent use of a chosen method of citation, especially in your Annotated Bibliography. Have you accurately and correctly provided the full citation for each work, are they in alphabetical order by the author's surname, have you consistently used the standards for the citation style that you have noted at the top of your Annotated Bibliography?

#### **Grammar/Spelling/Clarity - 10%**

We understand that English may not be your first language and typos happen to everyone (your instructor very much included!), so perfection is neither expected nor required. But an attention to detail is important, and easily fixed errors in particular suggest sloppiness and a lack of care.

Clarity of writing means choosing the most concise and direct sentence and most commonly used words. It also means ensuring that each element of your assignment is necessary and relevant. Remember to ruthlessly omit unnecessary words and sentences!

## **Content elements - 80% of grade**

### **Source Selection - 20%**

Source selection refers to the quality and suitability of your selected sources for your particular research project. Do you have the correct number of secondary sources for your assignment? Are the sources you have selected proper and reliable academic sources? Are they well-selected and relevant to your project? Does your overall selection of sources display thoughtfulness regarding how to best approach your particular research topic and medium? For example, have you found relevant and useful sources that cover a variety of important issues, or perhaps some that also touch on important methodologies related to your project?

### **Source Integration - 20%**

Source integration refers to how well you have integrated your selected sources within your project as a whole. Does your Annotated Bibliography provide an accurate and valuable summary for each source? Have you purposefully and carefully integrated these sources into your larger research project and explained their relevance to your project?? Do the Annotated Bibliography and Proposal sections feel like two parts of one clear and focused research project?

**Historical Narrative - 20% [In my Religious Studies courses, I would replace this with a different issue relevant to that discipline. I begin discussing historical narrative from the very beginning of the semester, and it is listed as one of the primary learning objectives on the course syllabus].**

Does your Proposal section show evidence that you have thought about the role of historical narrative in general and to your project specifically? Have you clearly shown the narrative choices that you have made for this project, and explained how these choices have shaped the nature of your project? Have you demonstrated how your chosen medium (e.g. novel, research paper, museum exhibit) will communicate this narrative? Does your paper show comprehension of the concept of historical narrative and its role in how we tell history as scholars-in-training?

### **General Comprehension - 20%**

Comprehension refers to the general historical accuracy and comprehension of early Chinese history in general and of our course material specifically within your assignment. This means that your assignment should show evidence of knowledge of the time period(s) relevant to the assignment, be reasonably free from historical inaccuracy and demonstrate comprehension of our course themes and content where applicable. You are not expected to have a flawless knowledge of your topic, but you are expected to be in possession of relevant knowledge that we learned in class from our readings and lectures.