

# Grading Rubric for Hum1D: A Cultural History of the Blues Research Projects

	A	B	C	D
Thesis 10%	The topic of the paper and the discussion are clear, sophisticated, and well organized.	The topic is clear and sophisticated. The discussion is slightly unclear or lacking in sophistication or organization.	The topic is unclear or bland and obvious. Not supported by well-researched evidence or examples.	The topic is vague or too broad. You just restate obvious points or give misinformation.
Structure 20%	Your thesis is supported by a number of relevant facts and examples, each of which is clearly presented in the body of the essay and elaborated with good transitions between ideas. Your conclusion is appropriate.	Generally clear but some of the ideas may need more elaboration. Most transitions are good. Some ideas may lack a clear introduction. The conclusion is appropriate.	Transitions between ideas are unclear or you may wander from topic to topic. Some ideas are not well integrated into the essay. The conclusion is unsupported by the essay.	The structure is unclear. Few topic sentences and the transitions between ideas are hard to follow. Conclusion is inappropriate or missing.
Completeness 15%	You answer the question or address the problem you pose, including all relevant information.	You include most of the information required but you have left out some (minor) aspects of your subject.	You do not address a major part of the question or topic you propose.	You do not address the topic that you raise or you veer into another topic.
Use of Evidence 20%	Appropriately chosen evidence and examples from primary and secondary sources (print and internet). Examples used when necessary to illustrate a point. Citations are well chosen and integrated into the essay.	Good use of evidence and examples to support your ideas. However, at times, you may cite evidence or examples without really stating its relevance to the question. Overall, you use evidence well. Citations are well chosen and integrated in the essay.	Evidence used is not appropriate to the questions raised or relevant evidence is missing. You often use examples or evidence without explaining relevance. Citations are not well integrated. No evidence included that cannot be found in general reference works.	Evidence is vague, wrong, wrongly interpreted or missing. Citations are not integrated.
Terms/ Vocabulary 15%	Excellent use of relevant terminology or specialized vocabulary. Demonstrates understanding.	Generally good use of relevant terminology or specialized vocabulary. Sometimes terms are misapplied.	Avoids relevant terminology or specialized vocabulary when they should be used or occasionally misuses terms.	Shows no attempt to use/understand relevant terminology or specialized vocabulary.
Grammar & Style 15%	No problems of either grammar or spelling. Your style is sophisticated and appropriate. The essay is a pleasure to read and interesting.	Generally no problems in either grammar or spelling. Occasional minor difficulties in style with respect to punctuation. The essay is readable, interesting and well organized.	Some minor problems with grammar, but lots of spelling/punctuation lapses.	Paper shows little or no evidence of proofreading. Major and frequent errors in spelling and grammar. Difficult to read.
Use of Sources 5%	Sources are cited in recognizable format (MLA, APA, Chicago). All sources cited or referenced are found in "works cited" list at end of essay. Print sources beyond web sites, general references and class materials.	Sources are cited in recognizable format (MLA, APA, Chicago). All sources cited or referenced are found in "works cited" list at the end of the essay. Judicious use of web sites.	Sources are cited in "works cited" list, but it is unclear where you used them in your essay. Some attributions clearly lacking. Too much reliance on the web and on encyclopedias.	Sources are not in appropriate format. "Works Cited" list and references do not match. Complete reliance on web and encyclopedias.