Statement of Departmental Mission:

In an integrated fashion, students will develop and refine expertise in historical research skills and knowledge of the Americas, East Asia, and Europe.

Statement of Integrated Departmental Learning Goals:

1. Students will learn to think critically about the nature of historical knowledge.
2. Students will build and master a foundation of knowledge about specific places and societies over time.
3. Students will develop, refine, and master disciplinary research skills.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to conceptually understand and critically evaluate arguments within historical scholarship and ways of pursuing historical scholarship.

Mastery involves three components related to the construction of historical arguments.

a. Conceptualization--were the concepts and insights at the heart of the analysis clear, perceptive, well thought out, surprising, original?

b. Evidence--does the author question the nature of evidence and demonstrate knowledge of the evidence relevant to the issue(s) discussed, and does the author successfully use the relevant evidence, even when it apparently contradicts her/his line of argument?

c. Synthesis and Integration--does the essay integrate concepts and ideas into a well-reasoned and forcefully presented whole?

2. Students will master disciplinary writing skills in making persuasive responses to arguments.
Mastery of disciplinary writing is assessed by level.

a. Basic/introductory: students summarize and respond critically to a scholarly argument, writing short papers (2-8 pages) with a concise thesis, systematic use of evidence and coherent argument.

b. 200-300 levels: students engage in deeper analysis and organization of more complex writing assignments, culminating in an approximately 50-page senior thesis written in accord with disciplinary and interdisciplinary conventions.

c. All levels: students progress in their evaluative work with primary and secondary sources, advancing skills in critique and synthesis. Also, students demonstrate an ability to carry knowledge across courses and make connections between them.