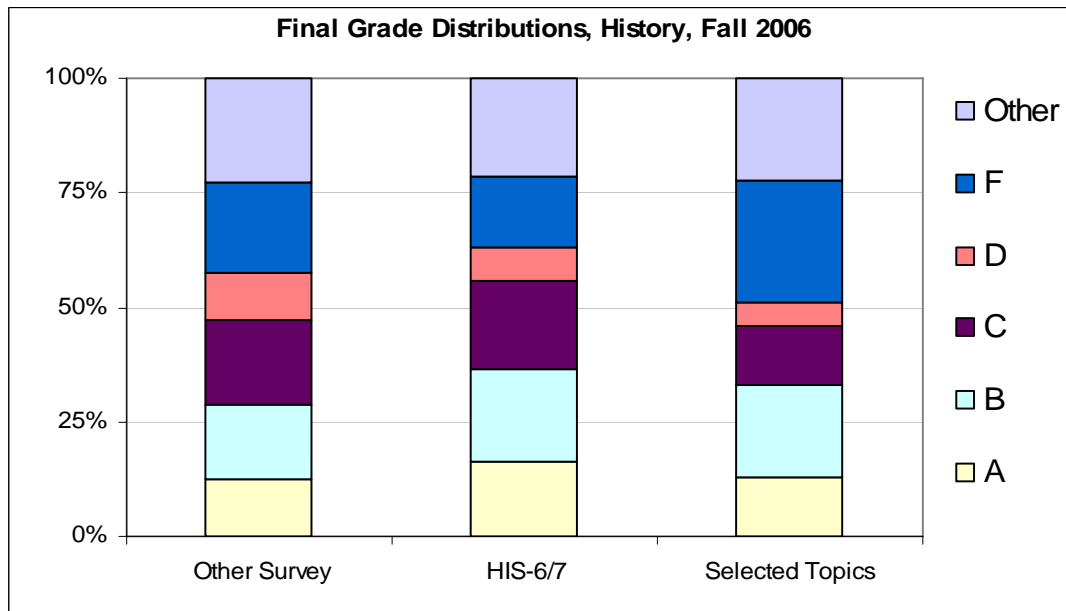


History Grade Distributions for Fall 2006
Prepared by David Torres

Institutional Research was asked to examine whether there were significant differences in the grades given for different kinds of history courses. From an examination of the catalogue, I see that the courses are roughly divided into what I will term “survey courses” (these are numbered HIS-1 through HIS-10) and “topic courses” (these are numbered HIS-11 and higher). The survey courses are broad in scope and deal with histories of world and western civilization, the United States, and the Americas. The topic courses are more specialized courses, with topics like military history, Russian, African-American histories (among others). (HIS-6 and HIS-7, which are survey classes, are in their own category as they accounted for almost 80% of all history enrollments.) For the present analysis, only the fall 2006 history grades were used.

The fall 2006 grade distributions for all history courses are shown in the graphic below:



A preliminary review of the graphic indicates that there is not too much difference in the grade distributions for the different types of history classes. The proportions of A and B grades seem roughly similar, but for the topic courses there is a smaller proportion of C grades given. Taken together, the success rates (A,B, and C grades) are higher for the HIS-6/7 classes (over 50%) than for the other history classes.