

Guidelines for Daily Response Posts

For almost every class session, you will be assigned readings that you are expected to complete before class begins. Remember to read (and re-read) actively. Whether your text is hard-copy or digital, annotate your readings: highlight, underline, or circle important phrases or passages; draw connections between different passages, pages, or different sections of the text; draw connections between this text and other texts from this class or other texts in general; consider also writing down your own personal notes separately as you read the text and/or as you reflect back on the text. This could include key passages, key concepts, and/or questions you want to bring to our class session. **The more time you spend reading, re-reading, and reflecting, the more rewarding the texts—and our subsequent discussions—will be.**

Whenever you are assigned readings, I will post questions to our Canvas discussion boards (Canvas>Discussions) in advance. Please be sure to find the correct discussion board for the given day and follow my instructions. I will list a series of questions and ask you to respond to one or more of those questions. While your responses are by no means essays, I still expect you to write clearly and proofread your work. Adequate responses will be at least a few sentences or a short paragraph per question, although this will vary.

If you quote long passages, you should usually be able to copy and paste directly from the .pdfs we're using, but be careful as sometimes this function doesn't copy properly. If the passage is long, you can also simply note the location of the passage with page numbers (or paragraph numbers if applicable) and provide the beginning and end of the quotation so the rest of us can easily locate that passage ourselves.

In most cases, it will be best for you to post your work directly into the discussion board rather than upload a document to the discussion board. This will simply make it faster for me and for all of us to access your post. **I suggest starting a Word document or Google Doc to contain all of your responses throughout the semester.** Compose your daily post in Word or a Google Doc, read it over, proofread, revise as needed, and then copy and paste your response directly into your discussion board post. But maintain your Word document or Google Doc for your own sake (a compilation of all of your homework responses), so you can easily locate and access the content of your past posts without having to find them on Canvas. (When composing your essays/projects or preparing for our final exam, you will have our past lesson plans as well as your own notes from class to refer back to. However, your notes on your own past homework discussion posts may also be highly useful in these contexts.)

Posts are timestamped and are due before class begins each day. This means that if you post something on a class day at 10:10am (when our class begins) or later, it will be considered late. But it is better to post something late than not at all since the goal is for you to learn by engaging with the text. However, since the goal of these posts is also for you to complete the post in preparation for that day's class session, late posts will **generally** be considered as though they were not submitted, earning you a 0 for that daily post (in terms of your daily homework grade).

Please note that failing to follow the specific instructions for that day's post will result in an "incomplete" for that post. If I request 2-3 paragraphs in your answer, and you only write one paragraph; if I request a paragraph and you only write a single sentence; or if you skip a question, your post will be considered incomplete and will receive a severely lowered grade.

Even if you are absent from class, you are still responsible for submitting a post for that class session to ensure that you have read the assigned text and engaged with its content.

Overall, your daily response posts (daily homework) are worth 15% of your final grade.