

Discussion Posts Assignment, 1% each, determines a total of 20% of the final grade

Students will prepare for each class by completing **discussion posts** that respond to an assigned set of readings. These posts will be in the form of a short (~250 words) response posted on an online class discussion board. The reading assignments in this course are purposefully designed to cover a relatively small number of pages for an advanced course. This is done to ensure that students have time to engage with each deeply. There will be twenty-one discussion post opportunities throughout the semester. Each discussion board post makes up 1% of the final grade, comprising a total of 20% of the final grade, so each student must complete at least twenty posts according to the rubric for full credit in this category. Students who complete more than 20 posts will have their 20 strongest posts contribute to their final grade.

Criteria	Full Credit (1 point)	Half Credit (.5 points)	No Credit (0 points)
Word count	225-275 words	200-225 words or 275-300 words	Below 200 words or above 300 words
Content	Pertains directly to the relevant assigned reading	References the relevant assigned reading but the main focus is on a different topic	Does not pertain directly to the relevant assigned reading
Connections	Clearly connects assigned readings to other texts, other subjects, other discussion posts, personal interests, and/or personal experiences	Connects assigned readings to other texts, other subjects, other discussion posts, personal interests, and/or personal experiences but is missing a clear explanation of that connection	Does not connect assigned readings to any other texts, other subjects, other discussion posts, personal interests, and/or personal experiences