# Discussion Assignments:

Each Discussion Assignment has two components: Primary Essay and Response Essay.

**a) Primary Essay**

* Approximately every two to three weeks, you are required to participate in the Course discussions that are based on between two and three questions.
* You are required to write a Primary Essay that answers one of the discussion questions in between **500 and 600 words**. You will be penalized for having less than 500 words or exceeding 600 words.
* Your essay should be titled using both the number identifier for and the exact wording of the question that you are attempting. This becomes the title/subject of your essay. Do not use your name or the Discussion number as the title/subject of your essay. A penalty of half a point (0.5) penalty will be imposed on a violation of this requirement.
* The relevant Course readings must be referenced using in-text citations (author, and page number – MLA style) in every discussion. Non-course materials may be used to supplement the course readings. PowerPoint lectures may be used and cited but they are not considered course readings (they are lectures).
* Your essay should be pasted directly on to the DISCUSSION BOARD no later than 9:00 PM the Wednesday of the week (do not use attachments, please. Attachments will not be graded) for the assignment. **Any primary discussion essay posted after the Wednesday, 9:00 PM deadline will be deemed late and inadmissible.** You will not receive any credit for such submissions.
* Your essay must include a word count at the end using this format: **Word Count: xxx.** This word count excludes the title or subject and references at the end of the essay. You will lose half a point (0.5) for not including a word count at the end of your Discussion essay.
* You will be penalized half a point (0.5) for falsifying your word count.
* Do not wait till the last minute before you attempt posting your Discussion assignment. Blame no one but yourself if you are unable to post at the last minute.
* Double-check your postings on the DISCUSSION BOARD to make sure they went through.
* It is in your best interest to complete all the Discussion assignments. Your chances of doing well in the course diminish with each missed Discussion assignment.
* This Discussion assignment is worth 6 points (6 assignments @ 6pts) and 36 points total (36% of final grade).
* **Please, check back on the Discussion Board a week after the deadline for a Discussion assignment for my feedback on it**. This feedback may help you improve your score on the next discussion assignment.

**b) Response to another student’s Primary Essay**

* **No later than 9:00 PM Friday, two days following the deadline for a Primary Discussion Essay**, each student is required to respond to another student’s primary Discussion essay above.
  + To respond to another student’s Primary Essay, click on that entry on the Discussion Board, and then click on the Reply Button. Compose or paste your response onto the new window.
  + Each response should be between **200-250** words. This assignment is worth 4 points.
* The response should be a **critique** of one of the original essay postings for that week and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the scheduled readings on that topic.
* Your essay must include a word count at the end using this format: **Word Count: xxx.** You will lose half a point (0.25) for not including a word count at the end of your Discussion essay.
* **Your critique should focus on the strength and weaknesses/ deficiencies of the essay that you are responding to.**

There is no opportunity to make up a missed discussion assignment