

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 1: The Government of the United States, 0123 WINTER 2008, UC:CSU, 3 Units

Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA	Online Office Hours: Thursdays 4-5 PM	Email: chounlam@usc.edu (818) 364-7600, ext. 4149
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COURSE SYLLABUS (REVISED 1 JAN; CHECK ETUDES-NG FOR LATEST VERSION)

This course is an analytical study of politics and political institutions in the United States and the state of California. It investigates human behavior within the framework of those political institutions and further understanding of the roles of the mass media and of the economy in American politics. It deals with how the U.S. Constitution and how the government meet democracy's challenge in a world of change. The latter part of the course will focus on California paying particular attention to political, economic, cultural and demographic trends. This course has been approved for credit transfer to the University of California and the California State University systems.

****NOTE: PLEASE FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES.**

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of the duties of Federal, state, and local governments and the impact on individuals.
2. Differentiate initiatives, referendums and recalls in California Constitution and laws.
3. Develop skills to assess news sources and to become an informed citizen and voter.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content Knowledge — Upon completion of this course the student will have an understanding of, or be able to apply, the following principles and concepts:

1. The influence of representative government on our daily lives and of the citizens with their respective values upon the policies and institutions of government.
2. The basic constitutional principles of separation of powers and check and balance between the three branches of government.
3. A respect for The Bill of Rights and the evolution of American Civil Rights.
4. An understanding of the interaction and relationships between federal, state, and local governments as they operate in different national and cultural contexts.
5. An understanding of basic political processes and instructions at all levels in a way that empowers them with a critical thinking ability to gain access in a democracy.

Exit Skills — Upon completion of this course the student have the following skills:

1. To be able to critically analyze state, local and national news.
2. To be able to explain and discuss how federal, state and local government interrelate and impact the lives of its citizens.
3. To critically analyze issues to be voted on in a ballot.
4. To be able to comfortably work in, or run, and election campaign.
5. To have the knowledge of how to influence legislation, and write legislators.
6. To know how your rights as a citizen, and the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights, along with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts.

CLASS MATERIALS

1. **Required:** Patterson, T. E.; *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, McGraw-Hill, 7th Edition. (ISBN-13 9780073403861) or 6th edition (ISBN 0-07-319774-2) or 5th edition (ISBN:0-07-28 1733-X).

2. **Required:** Field, M.; *California Government and Politics Today*, Longman, (ISBN-13: 978-0205521159) 11th or 10th edition (ISBN: 0-321-12962-8)

Save \$\$, Buy u\$ed Book\$ www.lamissionbookstore.com/ **Select Term > Political Science**

GRADING

GRADING SCALE
Out of 600 Points
A = 540 Points and above
B = 480 to 539 Points
C = 420 to 479 Points
D = 360 to 419 Points
F = 359 Points and Below

POINT DISTRIBUTION
Online Final Exam (2 Hours) = 150 Points
Online Midterm (2 Hours) = 100 Points
Research Paper (all components) = 100 Points
Political Scrapbook (all components) = 100 Points
10 Online Quizzes (30 minutes each) = 100 Points
Weekly Discussions (5 Original Posts and Replies) = 50 Points

EXTRA-CREDIT COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

To help ensure that students can obtain and maintain good grades, students are encouraged to volunteer for extra-credit. **SERVICE LEARNING (Volunteering for the Community)**. Students can earn up to **one whole grade** improvement for the course. Please refer to the section at the end of the syllabus for more details. Students can earn the maximum points by volunteering for 10 hours. Each hour is worth a **+6 points** improvement. Maximum for EXTRA-CREDIT is 60 Points.

Service Learning is an innovative teaching methodology that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Rules:

- Up to ten percent (6 points for every hour volunteered) will be added to overall semester grade. Therefore the maximum extra-credit work can increase your grades from **C** to **B**, or **B** to **A**, etc.
- All volunteer work must be performed at a nonprofit community & political organization which directly represents and/or benefits local residents. For example: it could be done at schools, the local office of a Congressperson, State Senator, City-Council Person; the local chapter of the Red Cross, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation League, American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, AARP, etc..
- **Prior authorization from me is required regarding the selection of such an organization for Service Learning credits.**
- A one page, typed, double-spaced, and proof-read essay delineating the specific experiences you encountered and how it made you feel. Submit this essay as an **Assignment** along with the supervisor's contact information.
- Please ask that the supervisor email me at chounlam@usc.edu a confirmation of your hours along with their contact information.

ONLINE QUIZZES

All the quizzes will be AVAILABLE according to the ETUDES-NG schedule. Students may take the quizzes anytime during the AVAILABLE period. Once a student has elected to OPEN a quiz, it must be completed within 30 minutes. It is important to have reliable access to the internet and to be able to log on to ETUDES-NG. Although the quizzes are open most of the semester, it is recommended that all quizzes be completed by the due date in preparations for Exams.

ONLINE EXAMS

ONLINE MIDTERM and ONLINE FINAL EXAMS will have objective parts, short answers and essays. The objective questions will be multiple choice, matching and true/false. The short essays will require students to type their answers directly into a text box. Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 2 hours to finish each exam once opened. You may use your textbook and lectures notes. However you must cite the source of the information that you are using to AVOID PLAGIARISM. You ARE NOT permitted to cut or paste ANY material from other sources or this will constitute CHEATING. The ETUDES-NG system will limit your responses to 4,000 characters each. Review sheets are in the MODULES Area. Please practice your essays and answer them completely and thoroughly.

ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments will be submitted electronically for grading using the ETUDES-NG system. It is recommended that students compose and save their assignments in a word document. Once completed, simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) into the textbox of the assignment.

POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK

Each student will create a POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK (aka Political Journal) in which they will respond to statements and discussion questions and complete activities. Check under the Assignments area for details and instructions. The responses must be turned in electronically to the ETUDES-NG system for grading. The Scrapbook is also designed for your personal reference documenting your journey through American Government and Politics and a study guide. Long after you have completed the course you may wish to reflect upon it. The exercises will be compiled to compose a political scrapbook which will be graded.

WEEKLY ONLINE DISCUSSIONS

Each week, students are required to participate in online discussions. It is required you post an Original Posting consisting of at least an one-paragraph reaction to the questions posed in the weekly series.

It is suggested that you compose your response in a word processor and then cut and copy your response to the Assignment section and also the Discussion Forum. Please read other students comments and reactions. It is required each students QUOTE and comment on another student's reaction.

To receive credit, students will simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) their original response to the question and their reply of another student's posting into the text box of the appropriate assignment in the ASSIGNMENTS section. To receive full points you must submit a copy of your REPLY and your QUOTE as an ASSIGNMENT to be graded. Some assignments have been combined for your convenience.

EXAM & CLASS POLICIES

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the college. It is not appropriate to use any websites in constructing the research paper. All materials must be obtained through the designated databases and must be of scholarly nature. The unauthorized use of paper databases or the cutting and pasting of pre-existing papers will be considered cheating. A general rule of thumb for the paper is: ***"If you use something to write it, then you must cite it."***

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities seeking academic accommodations from instructors must present instructors, at or before the beginning of the semester or as soon as possible after classes begin, the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) - recommendation for academic accommodations, so that the accommodations can be provided in a timely manner.

CONTACTING ME

Please update your email ETUDES-NG > MY WORKSPACE > ACCOUNT > MODIFY DETAILS. Class email will be sent to whatever address you designate.

Your primary means for contacting me will be through email chounlam@usc.edu. **Please fully identify yourself: In the Subject line of your email write: PS1 and Section Number & Your Full Name.** Failure to do so, will result in no response or a delay. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours. Please follow up with another email if there is no response. **Avoid using the Private Message System or CHATROOM which requires login into the system; please email me questions directly to chounlam@usc.edu**

MONDAY	TUE	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SA	SU
	1	2 Semester Begins 1) READ SYLLABUS 2) EMAIL ME at chounlam@usc.edu 1) Full Name 2) Email 3) Phone 4) Birthday 5) Joke	3 Quiz 3) Welcome Quiz (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	4 Discussion1 4) SELF INTRODUCTION (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	5	6
7 Readings WTP Chapter 1: American Political Culture; WTP Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy; WTP Chapter 3: Federalism WTP: Read US Constitution & Dec. of Independence	8 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz1: WTP Chaps 1, 2 & 3: American Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism Quiz2: Matching the Bill of Rights	9 Discussion2 What were the results of the Iowa Caucus for the Democrats and the Republican? Were you surprised? Why or why not? (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	10	11 Assignment SUBMIT PAPER SECTIONS 1-3 P1: Topic Proposal P2: Preliminary Research P3: Detailed Outline with Sources (65 Pts) ~10 hours	12	13
14 Readings WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization	15 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz3: Are these Scholarly Sources? Quiz4: WTP Chaps 4, 5, & 6: Civil Rights, Equal Rights, Public Opinion & Political Socialization	16 Discussion3 Watch a video clip and answer: Given the existence of bigotry and stereotypes, how can we overcome racism? (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	17 Assignment SUBMIT SCRAPBOOK SECTIONS Intro - 2 A. Introductions B. Section 1: Learning About Politics C. Section 2: Seeing Politics / Me As a Political Scholar (40 Pts) ~5 hours	18 EXAM ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM (100 Pts) ~ 2 hours Must be submitted by SUNDAY 20th 11pm	19	20
21 Readings WTP: Chapter 11: Congress WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System	22 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz5: WTP Chaps 11, 12 & 14: Congress, President & Judiciary Quiz6: Court Cases	23 Discussion4 1. POST YOUR FIRST DRAFT AND WORKS CITED PAGE 2. Comment and suggest changes for 2 other students (25 Pts) ~ 5 hour	24 Assignment SUBMIT SCRAPBOOK SECTIONS: 3-6 D. Section 3: Political Me E. Section 4: Me As a Voter F. Section 5: Me As the Policy Maker G. Section 6: My Declaration (60 Pts) ~10 hours	25 Assignment SUBMIT PAPER SECTIONS 4-5 P4: First Draft P5: Final Draft (35 Pts) ~10 hours	26	27
28 Readings California Chapter 1-3 California Chapter 4-7 California Chapter 8-11 California Chapter 12-15	29 Quiz: 30 min each Quiz7: CA1—Chaps 1-7 Quiz8: CA2—CA Chaps 8-15	30 Discussion5 Who do you think will win the 2008 Presidential Election and why? SUBMIT BY 11PM DISCUSSIONS 1-5 (50 Pts) ~10 hours	31 EXAM ONLINE FINAL EXAM (150 Pts) ~ 2 hours Must be submitted by FRIDAY 31st 11pm	FEB 1	2	3

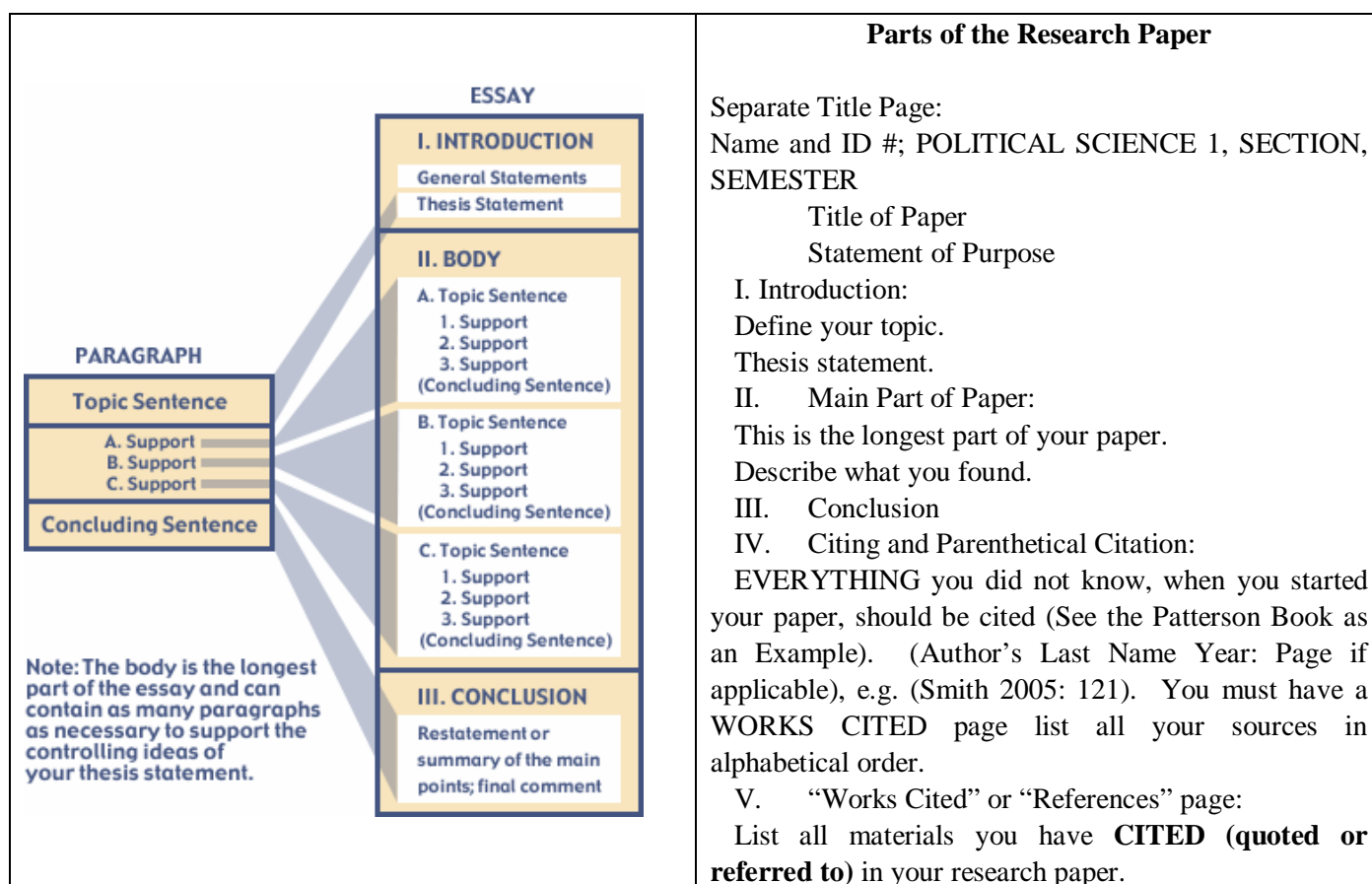
NOTE: Pace yourself and plan ahead. You may go ahead of class. All Assignments are due by 11 PM.

WINTER 2008 CLASSES BEGIN (day and evening)	Jan. 2, 2008
Last day for a REFUND of fees (five week classes)	January 5, 2008
Last day to ADD classes without instructor signature	January 8, 2008
Last day to file a petition for Credit/No-Credit	January 11, 2008
Last day to DROP a class without a "W"	January 12, 2008
MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY (college closed)	Jan. 21, 2008
Last day to DROP a class with a "W"	January 2, 2008
Last day of class instruction	January 30, 2008
FINAL EXAMS	January 31, 2008

THE RESEARCH PAPER

Research Paper Requirement

1. 5 to 7 pages of typed, double-spaced, paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), standard margin and proofread paper on select topics.
2. Your paper shall be graded based on substance and form. Please refer to the grading rubric and guidelines.
3. Your research should focus on **scholarly journal articles**. (These articles cite other authors and must have a WORKS CITED or REFERENCE PAGE). Check the Discussion Area for Research Tips and Passwords to Journal Databases.
YOU MUST GET AT LEAST TEN (10) SCHOLARLY SOURCES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:
1. EBSCOhost 2. Opposing Viewpoints 3. CQ Researcher (The ETUDES-NG has the Library Passwords)
4. I accept any type of styles — MLA, APA, Chicago, etc. — Please be consistent with a single style throughout your paper.
5. **Every component of the research paper: topic selection and outline (10 pts), preliminary research (35 pts), detailed outline with sources (20 pts), first draft (25 pts), and final paper (10 pts) must be submitted online.**
6. **Late Submissions will be penalized 10% for each week they are late.**



Scholarly articles are generally written by people who are experts on a subject. These articles **always have bibliographies or footnotes** that back up the research and point you toward other useful information on a particular topic. Sometimes they are in journals that are "**scholarly**," "**peer reviewed**," or "**refereed**," which means a panel of experts has approved many of the articles before they are published in the journal. These articles are often written with a specific audience in mind, for example: students, specialists, or researchers in a certain field.

POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

These topics have been pre-approved. Include the Required Article in your paper. *Other topics must be approved by instructor*

Topics	Required Article. (Read these first!) You must include the required article as part of your research. Go to http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/ username: mission password: la818
Abortion	Jost, K., & Koch, K. (2006, September 22). Abortion showdowns. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 769-792. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006092200 .
Alternative Fuels	Cooper, M. H. (2005, February 25). Alternative fuels. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 173-196. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005022500 .
Campaign Finance Reform	Cooper, M. H. (2000, March 31). Campaign finance reform. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 257-280. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000033100 .
Checks and Balances	Jost, K. (2006, February 24). Presidential power. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 169-192. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006022400 .
Civil Liberties and the War on Terror	Jost, K. (2003, October 24). Civil liberties debates. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 13, 893-916. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2003102400 .
Climate Change	Clemmitt, M. (2006, January 27). Climate change. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 73-96. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006012700 .
Death Penalty	Jost, K. (2005, September 23). Death penalty controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 785-808. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005092301 .
Electoral College	Jost, K., & Giroux, G. (2000, December 8). Electoral College. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 977-1008. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000120800 .
Free-Press Dispute	Jost, K. (2005, April 8). Free-press disputes. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 293-316. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005040800 .
Future of the Supreme Court	Jost, K. (2005, January 28). Supreme Court's future. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 77-100. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005012800 .
Human Cloning	Hansen, B. (2004, October 22). Cloning debate. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 14, 877-900. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2004102200 .
Medical Marijuana	Marshall, P. (2005, February 11). Marijuana laws. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 125-148. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005021100 .
Minimum Wage and Poverty	Katel, P. (2005, December 16). Minimum wage. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 1053-1076. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005121600 .
Right to Die and Assisted Suicide	Jost, K. (2005, May 13). Right to die. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 421-444. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005051301 .
Stem Cell Research	Clemmitt, M. (2006, September 1). Stem cell research. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 697-720. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006090100 .
Universal Health Care	Epstein, K. (2002, June 14). Covering the uninsured. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 12, 521-544. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2002061400 .
US Energy Policy	Cooper, M. H. (1999, March 5). The politics of energy. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 9, 185-208. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre1999030500 .
Voting and Participation	Katel, P. (2006, September 15). Voting controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 745-768. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006091500 .

ETUDES-NG TUTORIALS

<http://www.lacitycollege.edu/online/menu.htm>



The ETUDES-NG Portal is located at <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Access to classes is determined by semester start date and/or instructor preference. Student user IDs and *initial* passwords are automatically generated.

Your unique username is:

- *First two letters of your first name, plus the
- *First two letters of your last name, plus the
- *Last five digits of your NEW student identification number.

Your password is: * The Month and Day of your birthday, as given in the school records, with the format MMDD

This password information applies to students accessing Etudes for the first time. Changes you make to your account, including your password, will persist to new semesters.

Each tour will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

For Tours 1- 5, you will need the Flash player plug-in to take these tours.

If you don't have the Flash player, you can [download the free Flash player here](#).

- [Tour 1 - Logging In](#)
- [Tour 2 - Reading Modules and Participating in Discussions](#)
- [Tour 3 - Taking a Test](#)
- [Tour 4 - Submitting an Assignment](#)
- [Tour 5 - Sending a Private Message](#)
 - Note: This is for communicating with other students. Please email instructor at chounlam@usc.edu
- [Tour 6 - Discussion Forums Overview](#)
- [Tour 7 - Test Center Overview](#)

Tutorials Courtesy of Sarah Phinney at Porterville College.

WEEKLY ONLINE DISCUSSION GRADING RUBRIC

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Quote
Excellent 100%	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Furtheres the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond.	Clearly connects the posting to text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.
Fair 75%	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting.	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,
Poor 50%	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Posting is attached to the right discussion board, but does not clearly reflect the assignment.	Less than required number of postings. Does not further any discussions	Mentions the videos, text or previous activity without logical link to topic.	Responds, but with minimum effort. (i.e. "I agree with Bob")