## QUEST 1: IDS 2935 THE IDEA OF HAPPINESS FALL 2022 T/TH PERIOD 7

#### **INSTRUCTOR**

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#### TEACHING ASSISTANT

James Simpson Office Hours: Office: Griffin Floyd 316 Email: simpson.james@ufl.edu

#### **COURSE DETAILS**

Time: Tuesday/Thursday period 7 Quest 1 Theme: The Examined Life General Education: Humanities Class resources, announcements, updates, and assignments will be made available through the class Canvas site (www.elearning.ufl.edu).

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Every person wants to live well. What is it, though, to live well? What sorts of things make our lives good? These, and related questions were fundamental to philosophy at its inception. Socrates famously declared that the unexamined life is not worth living, thereby calling attention to the need to think seriously about fundamental matters of value in order to live a genuinely worthwhile life. Nor has there ever been a time when philosophy, art, literature, history-or any other form of human culture-has not been guided by the question of how we ought to live in order to attain genuine happiness or well-being.

This Quest 1 course addresses that question which we cannot help but ask ourselves, "How should I live?" Drawing primarily on the disciplines of Philosophy and Classics, in conjunction with close analysis of works of literature, drama, and film, this course will expose students to both historical and contemporary perspectives on well-being and happiness. The readings have been selected to represent a number of distinct perspectives, both philosophical and non-philosophical, and to help students think for themselves about the kind of lives they want to live. Many texts will be historical, and students will be encouraged to find in these texts material relevant to their own lives, not despite, but because of the fundamentally different assumptions and commitments that animate views which are up to thousands of years old.

# QUEST 1 AND GEN ED DESCRIPTIONS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

**QUEST 1 DESCRIPTION:** Quest 1 courses are multidisciplinary explorations of truly challenging questions about the human condition that are not easy to answer, but also not easy to ignore: What makes life worth living? What makes a society a fair one? How do we manage conflicts? Who are we in relation to other people or to the natural world? To grapple with the kinds of open-ended and complex intellectual challenges they will face as critical, creative, and self-reflective adults navigating a complex and interconnected world, Quest 1 students use the humanities approaches present in the course to mine texts for evidence, create arguments, and articulate ideas.

# QUEST 1 SLOS:

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Content).
- Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Critical Thinking).
- Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (Connection).
- Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Communication).

**HUMANITIES DESCRIPTION:** Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

## HUMANITIES SLOS:

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS**

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Reflecting the curricular structures of Quest 1 and these Gen Ed designations, after taking The

Idea of Happiness students will be able to:

- 1. Identify, describe, and explain some of the principal philosophical theories of well-being and happiness, as well as the considerations that motivate them. (Content SLOs for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1)
- 2. Identify and analyze some of the major issues and problems traditionally encountered in attempts to provide a viable account of human happiness. (Content and Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1)
- **3.** Analyze and evaluate principal theories of well-being and happiness and adjudicate some of the problems traditionally encountered in attempts to provide a viable account of human happiness. (**Critical Thinking SLO for Gen Ed Humanities**)
- 4. Connect course content to the development of students' own conceptions of well-being, happiness, and what makes for a worthwhile life. (Connection SLO for Gen Ed Humanities)
- 5. Develop and present clear and effective responses in oral and written forms to essential questions about the nature of happiness and well-being that are appropriate to the dramatic, fictional, visual and philosophical sources studied in this course. (Communication SLO for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1)

TO SEE HOW ASSIGNED WORK ADVANCES EACH SLO, GO TO PAGES PP 8-10.

## TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Required books for class are available at the UF Bookstore. Shorter assigned readings will be available through the class Canvas page. Students are required to bring a <u>hard copy</u> of the day's assigned reading to class every day.

## Required

## Books

- 1. How Are We To Live?, Peter Singer, ISBN: 0879759666
- 2. Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle, ISBN: 1624661173
- 3. The Reasons of Love, Harry Frankfurt, ISBN: 0691126240

## **Movie Screenings**

As part of the course, we will watch movies. These movies will be made available through the UF library streaming services.

#### Recommended

1. A terrific guide to general writing rules is Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. The first edition is available online for free: <u>http://www.bartleby.com/141/</u>

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND GRADING POLICIES

All assignments are worth 100 points each for the purposes of grading, but are weighted differently in calculating the final grade. In calculating the final grade, the assignments are weighted as follows:

1.	10 short response assignments	20%
2.	Interview assignment	5%
3.	2 Short Papers (1000-1200 words each)	40% (15% and 25%)
4.	Capstone Project	20%
5.	Attendance in lecture	5%
6.	Participation in discussion section	10%

#### **Grading Scale**

This course will employ the following grading scale:

Letter Grade	4 pt. scale	Percentage/Points
А	4.0	93-100
A-	3.67	89-92
B+	3.33	86-88
В	3.0	83-85
B-	2.67	79-82
C+	2.33	76-78
С	2.0	73-75
C-	1.67	69-72
D+	1.33	66-68
D	1.0	63-65
D-	0.67	60-62
Е	0.0	0-59

More information on UF's grading policies is available here.

#### **COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES**

**Email:** Email is an essential mode of communication in the course. Students are expected to read all email they receive concerning the course and to do so in a timely fashion.

- Be sure set your Canvas notifications to "Notify me right away." I will proceed on the assumption that you have done so.
- If you want to reach me by email, please do so via UF email and not via Canvas. If you have substantive philosophical questions, email is not the best place for these; please come visit me in office hours.

**Texts:** For the required texts, students must purchase a *paper copy of the edition listed on the syllabus*. We will read passages from these texts in class, and there are substantial differences between various editions and translations. As a result, it is imperative that students not use different editions and electronic copies.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class regularly and to arrive on time. Attendance is worth 50 points, and the attendance grade is 5% of the final course grade.

Unexcused absences from more than three classes will negatively affect your attendance grade. For each unexcused absence beyond the third, you will lose 10 points from your attendance grade. For example, 50 points will become 40 points upon a fourth unexcused absence; 40 points would become 30 points upon a fifth unexcused absence; and so on.

Attendance will be taken at the TA's discretion at a random point in the class period. If you are not present when the TA takes attendance you will be marked absent for the class.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

#### **In Class Expectations**

**In Class:** Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Students must also come to class prepared. This means keeping current on the reading assignments and being aware of the course schedule and activities, as presented in this syllabus, discussed in class, and announced on the course website. It also means having the day's reading in hand at the start of class.

**Electronic Devices:** Please turn off and put away your laptop (etc.) and phone before class period begins. There are exceptions to this policy which I am happy to discuss with you.

Recording Lectures: I will not be recording anything.

#### **OUTSIDE SOURCES**

*Do not use texts or internet sources outside of those listed on the syllabus.* If you would like to use an outside source when writing a paper, please clear the text with me first.

## MAKING UP WORK

Work is due as specified in the syllabus. Late work is subject to a 1/3 grade penalty for each 24 hour period it is late (e.g., a paper that would've earn an A if turned in in class on Monday becomes an A- if received Tuesday, a B+ if received Wednesday, etc, with the weekend counting as two days). To be excused from submitting work at the assigned time, you must give 48 hours advance notice and/or meet the UF standards for an excused absence.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <u>https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx</u>

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor

and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

#### STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Pandemic:** In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the <u>UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website</u> for more information.
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
  - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- If possible, students should aim to be fully vaccinated but if unable, should strive to have at least one shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against

the COVID-19 virus. Our UF Health experts tell us that even if you've had COVID-19, you still need to get vaccinated. Having had COVID does not provide nearly as much protection as the vaccine. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <u>https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/.</u> Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine wherever they are currently can still receive their second dose on campus.

• Visit <u>coronavirus.UFHealth.org</u> and <u>coronavirus.ufl.edu</u> for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

## **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing UF's standard <u>online evaluations</u> (summary results will be available to students <u>here</u>) as well as a course-specific evaluation that focuses on course content and the experience of the Quest curriculum. Class time will be allocated for the completion of both evaluations.

Consistent high-quality class participation will improve the class experience and outcomes for everyone. "High-quality" in this case means:

- o informed (i.e., shows evidence of having done assigned work),
- thoughtful (i.e., shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised in readings and other discussions), and
- o considerate (e.g., takes the perspectives of others into account).

Participating in class discussion can improve your grade, but if you do not participate it will not negatively impact your grade.

If students have personal issues that prohibit them from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., they should see the instructors as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be kept to a minimum.

## **Materials and Supplies Fees**

There are no additional fees for this course.

## **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

## Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <a href="http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/">http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/</a> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

# **GRADED WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS**

(YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL THE ASSIGNED WORK IN ORDER TO PASS THE CLASS)

#### Weekly Writing Assignments

Ten weekly written responses. Each week when they do not have an essay or capstone project due, students will prepare and submit a brief response (c. 500 words) on assigned topics relating to the week's readings. These short, written responses have three functions. First, they will ensure that students are engaging properly with the course material. Second, they will serve as launching points for class discussion and interaction. Finally, these assignments will provide students a low stakes opportunity to try out thoughts they have about the course material and think through how the current course content might be relevant to their own views about happiness and well-being.

These weekly assignments will be group work. Students will be divided into groups of 6. Each group will submit one written and one electronic copy. The groups will be shuffled at various points over the course of the semester. In order to complete the assignment, it is *strongly encouraged* that students meet in person to hash out the answer(s) and divide up the work. Just opening a Google doc and hoping for the best is not going to work. Doing so will also make your work far less worthwhile.

For the first four short assignments, a subset of the assigned groups will be *required to meet with me in office hours in place of submitting an assignment*.

All submitted weekly assignments must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins in 12point Times New Roman. You must include a word count at the top of your first page and the date you submitted the assignment. Please also include every student's name who contributed to the submission. *If a student did not contribute to the assignment, there name should not be on the document*.

Your lowest score on the short weekly assignments will be dropped.

Advances SLOs: 2, 3, 4, 5

#### **Interview Assignment**

You will be tasked with choosing a person and interviewing them about their understanding of happiness. The person chosen must be someone whose understanding of happiness you think of as importantly different from your own. A pre-determined set of questions will be given to students, although they are also encouraged to come up with further questions, and will need to pursue promising and confusing answers by asking follow ups. Students will be responsible for summarizing the interviewee's answer and then writing a short reflection paper about how their understanding of the interviewee's conception of happiness has or has not changed as a result of the interview.

Advances SLOs: 2, 3, 4, 5

#### **Short Papers**

Over the course of the semester students will be asked to write two original papers (1000 words each). Essays will be on assigned topics relating to the material read and discussed in class, due in weeks 6 and 12. Students will be asked to demonstrate their ability to respond to questions on pertinent topics in ways that are both original and informed by the concepts, ideas, and themes of the course material. These essays will not be exercises in the regurgitation of supposedly expert information, whether presented in the readings or in the voice of the instructor. Please see the attached rubric for the assessment method and the course schedule for due dates.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, 12 pt Times New Roman. You must include a word-count at the top of your first page. Please also include your name, the date you hand in the assignment, and title your essays. If it is difficult for you to choose a title, consider that a clue that you may need to focus your essay more.

For each paper students must submit an electronic copy. The electronic copy is to be uploaded onto the course's e-learning site in Canvas. You can log in and find the course web page here: elearning.ufl.edu. The papers will be graded electronically, and returned to you electronically. We will consider allowing you to turn in a paper late without penalty only if you have a valid and documented reason for doing so. If you turn in a paper without a valid or documented reason, your paper will lose one third of a grade per day late. For example, an A paper submitted two days late would receive a B+.

If you believe your situation warrants an extension without penalty, you must get in touch with the professor at least two days in advance.

Advances SLOs: 1, 2, 5

#### **Capstone Project**

You will have several choices as to the topic of your Capstone project. For example, one topic will ask you to choose one good such as friendship, membership in an organization, wealth, self-esteem, knowledge, etc. and develop a view as to how an encounter with one of the theories of happiness examined in the course altered your sense of the importance of the chosen good.

The Capstone project will also be a group assignment. You will present the essentials of your views in the form of a structured presentation. Each member of the group will be responsible for one part of the presentation. After presenting their view, the group as a whole will field questions and comments from the class. Students will be responsible for submitting a 750 word reflection paper on the day they make their presentation. They will then be encouraged to revise this paper in the light of the feedback they receive from the class. The deadline for submitting the revised reflection paper will be several days following the presentation.

The writing assignments (both papers and weekly group work), in addition to the readings and discussion, should prepare you to produce an interesting and successful capstone project. The grade for the capstone project will be based on the three parts of the assignment: 1)

the presentation and 2) response to questions will together be worth 40 points, and 3) the workshop paper 60 points (for a total of 100 points).

Advances SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

### **Attendance in Lecture**

This course does require attendance to the lecture. One cannot engage in high quality class participation if one does not go to class. Unexcused absences from more than four classes will negatively affect the attendance grade. Attendance is worth 50 points, and is 5% of the final course grade. For each unexcused absence beyond the third, you will lose 10 points from your attendance grade. For example, 50 points will become 40 points upon a fourth unexcused absence; 40 points would become 30 points upon a fifth unexcused absence; and so on.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Advances SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

## **Participation in Discussion Section and Lecture**

There will be weekly discussion sections led by the TA. Participation in section counts for 10% of the student's grade. Attendance is not required. However, it is obviously essential to good participation. In addition, simply coming to section is a minimal form of participation. That said, section is a place where students engage in serious and lively discussion of the course material, and students will be assessed on the extent to which they contribute to this conversation and the environment which supports it.

Consistent high-quality class participation will improve the class experience and what students get out of it. "High-quality" in this case means:

- o informed (i.e., shows evidence of having done assigned work),
- thoughtful (i.e., shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised in readings and other discussions), and
- $\circ$  considerate (e.g., takes the perspectives of others into account).

Along with discussion section, lecture will also provide students the opportunity to participate, primarily by asking and answering questions. Getting involved in lecture in this way will also count towards a student's participation grade.

For some, speaking in front of others is not easy. If that is the case, attending office hours to discuss the material is a partial substitute for getting involved in section and lecture. In addition, if students have any issue that prevents or severely impacts their ability to participate, please come see us as soon as possible.

Advances SLOs: 2, 3, 4, 5

# **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### Note: course content is tentative and subject to change Assignment deadlines indicated in **Bold**

Week Topic Readings and Assignments		Readings and Assignments		
1	The			
Aug 25	Examined	Introductory class and syllabus review		
	Life?			
2	TT 1			
2	Hedonism	Short assignment 1 due by class Aug 30		
Aug 30	and getting	Nozick, "The Experience Machine"		
C 1	what one	Kupperman, "Myth One"		
Sep 1	wants?	Heathwood, "Fairing Well and Getting what you Want"		
2	TT 1	Parfit, "What Makes Someone's Life go Best?"		
3	Unhappy	Short assignment 2 due by class Sep 6		
Sep 6	Lives	Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilytch"		
Sep 8		Mike Leigh, American Beauty (film)		
Sep 0		Time Leigh, There was Dealing (Time)		
4	Living well	Short assignment 3 due by class Sep 13		
Sep 13	as living	Singer, How Are We to Live? Ch 1, 2, 4		
1	ethically			
Sep 15	5	Singer, How Are We to Live, Ch 7		
-		-		
5	Living well	Short assignment 4 due by class Sep 20		
Sep 20	as living	Singer, How Are We to Live? Ch 8, 9, 10		
	ethically			
Sep 22		Singer, How Are We to Live? Ch 11		
		Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus"		
6	Living well			
Sep 27	is living a	Frankfurt, The Reasons of Love, Part 1		
<b>a a</b> a	life with			
Sep 29	meaning	Frankfurt, <i>The Reasons of Love</i> , Part 2		
Sep 30		Paper # 1 due by noon		
7	Living well	Short assignment 5 due by class Oct 4		
Oct 4	is living a	Frankfurt, <i>The Reasons of Love</i> , Parts 2 and 3		
0.1.5	life with			
Oct 6	meaning	Frankfurt, <i>The Reasons of Love</i> , Part 3		
8	Can you	Short assignment 6 due in class Oct 11		
Oct 11	really choose	Sophocles, <i>Electra</i>		
	what matters	······································		
	what matters			

9	Living well	Interview due in class Oct 18		
Oct 18	is being	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , books IV, IX (excerpts)		
	unified	Brand, "What it is Like Being a Drug Addict"		
Oct 20		Darren Aronofsky, Black Swan (film)		
10	Living well	Short Assignment 7 due in class Oct 25		
Oct 25	is being	Evans, "In Two Minds"		
	unified?	Haidt, "The Emotional Dog and Its Rational Tail"		
Oct 27		Hume, Treatise on Human Nature, Book II, Section iii (excerpt)		
		Epictetus, Enchiridion (excerpts)		
		Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil (excerpt)		
		Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, I.13		
11	Virtue is	Short assignment 8 due in class Nov 1		
Nov 1	realizing	Csikszentmihalyi, "If We are so Rich, Why aren't We Happy?"		
	your nature			
Nov 3		Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, I.1-I.13		
12	Living well			
Nov 8	is the life of	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, II.1-II.7		
	knowledge			
Nov 10	C C	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, II.6-9, III.6-9, IV.1		
Nov 11		Paper # 2 due by noon		
13	Virtue and	Short assignment 9 due in class Nov 15		
Nov 15	Vice	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, VIII, IX (VIII.1-8, IX,.1-6)		
Nov 17		Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, VII.1-3, 8-9		
14	Happiness is	Short assignment 10 due in class Nov 22		
Nov 22	a thoughtful	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, VI.1, 5, 12-13		
	life	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, X.6-8 (recommended)		
Nov 24		No Class, Thanksgiving		
15	Pulling			
Nov 29	things	Review and Final Thoughts		
	together and	-		
Dec 2	the chimera	Presentations in place of lecture		
Dec 3	of meaning	Presentations in place of section		
16	xx7 1 ·			
16	Workshop	Presentations in place of lecture		
Dec 7				

# **Short Paper Rubric**

Thesis	A clear statement of the	The thesis is obvious, but	The thesis is present, but must	There is no thesis.	
I IICSIS	main conclusion of the	there is no single clear	be uncovered or reconstructed		
	paper.	statement of it.	from the text of the paper.		
	puper.	statement of it.	from the text of the paper.		5 points
	5 points				5 points
	5 points	4 points	1- 3 points	0 points	
Exposition	• The paper contains	•The summarization,	• The summarization,	• The summarization, description	
-	accurate and precise	description and/or	description and/or	and/or paraphrasing of the issue is	
	summarization, description	paraphrasing of the issue is	paraphrasing of the issue is	inaccurate.	
	and/or paraphrasing of the	fairly accurate and precise.	fairly accurate, but not precise.		
	issue being discussed				
	• Key concepts and	• Key concepts and theories	• Key concepts and theories	• Key concepts and theories may	
	theories are accurately and	are explained.	are not explained.	be identified but are not explained.	
	completely explained				
	• When appropriate, good,	• Examples are clear, but may	• Examples are not clear, and	• Examples are not clear, are	35 points
	clear examples are used to	not be well chosen.	may not be well chosen or	inappropriate, and/or do not	
	illuminate concepts and		appropriate.	illuminate concepts and issues.	
	issues and/or support				
	arguments.		• The textual support is inappropriate.	• No textual support.	
	• The paper uses	• The paper has textual	mappropriate.		
	appropriate textual	support, but other passages			
	support.	may have been better choices.	26-28 points	0-25 points	
	32-35 points	29-31 points			
Evaluation	The paper presents an	The paper presents an original	The paper presents an original	The paper does not present an	
	original argument	argument regarding a position	argument but describes and/or	original argument about the issues	
	regarding a position on an	on an issue importance to the	considers its plausibility in a	in question, or, it fails to offer	
	issue important to the	course. This argument is	weak or superficial way. It	support through rational argument.	
	course. This argument is	supported by:	does not check for the support		
	supported by:		offered in the argument or the		
			argument's internal		
	• checking for support in	• checking for support in the	consistency. It does not		
	the argument	argument			

	• checking for the	• checking for the argument's	defend the central argument against plausible objections.		
	argument's internal consistency	internal consistency			35 points
	• considering objections to one's own argument. This involves presenting 1 or more plausible and appropriate objections, and responding to them thoroughly.	• considering objections to one's own argument, though the objections may be ill chosen and/or not thoroughly responded to.			
	32-35 points	29-31 points	26-28 points	0-25 points	
Writing: Mechanics	• All sentences are complete and grammatical.	• All sentences are complete and grammatical.	• A few sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical.	• Many sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical.	
	• Paper has been spell- checked and proofread, and has no errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.	• Paper has been spell- checked and proofread, and has very few errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.	• Paper has several spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.	• Paper has many spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.	
	9-10 points	7-8 points	5-6 point	0-4 points	10 points
Writing: Flow and Coherence	• All words are chosen for their precise meanings and are used consistently.	• Most words are chosen for their precise meanings.	• Words are not chosen for their precise meanings.	• Words are not chosen for their precise meanings.	
	• All of the content of the paper is relevant to the main line of argument; no extraneous material.	• Most of the content of the paper is relevant to the main line of argument; extraneous material is at a minimum.	• May be substantial extraneous material.	• Substantial extraneous material.	10
	• Ideas are developed in a natural order. Premises fit together naturally and it is easy to identify the main	• Ideas are mostly developed in a natural order. It is not hard to understand what is being said.	• Ideas are not always developed in a natural order. It is sometimes difficult to identify the line of argument	• Ideas are not developed in a natural order. Premises do not fit together naturally and it is difficult	10 points

line of argument and to understand what is being said.		or to understand what is being said.	to identify the line of argument or to understand what is being said.
• All new or unusual terms are well-defined.	• Most new or unusual terms are well-defined.	• New or unusual terms are not well-defined.	• New or unusual terms are not defined.
• Information (names,	• Information (names, facts,	• Information (names, facts,	
facts, etc.) is accurate.	etc.) is accurate.	etc.) is mostly accurate.	• Information (names, facts, etc.) is inaccurate.
13-15 points	10-12 points	6-9 points	0-5 points

Total Points Possible: 100 points