CJUS 3630 Drugs, Crime and Society

Instructor Contact

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**Pronouns:** She/her/hers  
**Office Location:** Chilton 273G  
**Phone Number:** 940-565-4338  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment via Zoom  
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**Communication Expectations:** Correspondence for this course will take place primarily through email. This means that all emails sent through the course will go to your official UNT email. Therefore, it is **your responsibility** to read any messages you may receive. You must also make sure to check your official UNT email, or make sure you received official UNT emails to your preferred email address. You may also correspond with other classmates this way. As the semester progresses, announcements will be posted to the course Canvas page. Please make sure to check this frequently for any change to the course or schedule.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

Examines the relationship between drugs, crime, and human behavior. Explores the relationship between drug abuse and crime and the policy proposals developed to control drug trafficking, drug abuse, and drug-related crime, as well as the multi-faceted aspects and effects of chemical abuse and dependency.

Course Structure

This course will take place completely online through Canvas. The course is composed of three modules. Each module contains the relevant chapter outlines as well as other supplementary material as needed. Note not all modules will contain supplementary materials or require extra reading beyond the textbook. The students will also participate in two (2) discussions through Canvas during the course. The students will also take two (2) module quizzes.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the extent of drug use in the United States.
2. Discuss the relationship between drugs, crime, and the criminal justice system.
3. Identify the different classes of drugs and their effects.
4. Differentiate between criminological theories explaining drug use.
5. Explain the drugs-crime connection.
6. Describe the historical context surrounding the War on Drugs.
7. Identify the policies used to police, prosecute, and sentence drug offenses.
8. Report the consequences of the War on Drugs.

Materials

  - Available at the UNT Bookstore

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is that students interact with course materials and one another using critical thinking skills. Students should engage with each other throughout the course through the class discussions. At the beginning of each week, the student should refer to the course schedule (see below) for their reading assignment for that week. After completing each reading assignment in its entirety, the student should open the corresponding module and study the notes. As noted on the course calendar, two times throughout the semester the student will have a discussion post to complete. They will respond to material that is pertinent to the theme of the course that week, and then respond to one of their peers’ posts. The textbook chapters and the online modules will help you complete the discussion posts for and satisfy all learning objectives. The textbook chapters and online modules will assist the students in this task as well.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats (.doc, .pdf)
- Downloading and installing software

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration
that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
**Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu
**Phone:** 940-565-2324
**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130
**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm
**Telephone Availability:**
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm
**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

**Rules of Engagement**

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

**Course Requirements**

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives. Each week you will work on various combinations of readings, discussions, and
quizzes. Modules will become available students each week corresponding to the course calendar. Students can expect their grades and feedback to be released to them within 3 business days. There is a total of 320 points that can be earned in this class. The grading policy along with other class requirements is presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (2)</td>
<td>120 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>320 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Module Quizzes (200 points total)**
Each student will be required to take two (2) module quizzes in this course for a total of 200 points (each worth 100 points). Each quiz will consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Each quiz will cover all module note material, videos, assigned material in the classroom text, and other assigned reading material. Once you start the quiz you will have only 60 minutes to take it. *Quiz due dates are listed in the course calendar below.*

**Discussion Posts (120 points total)**
Each student will be required to respond to 2 Canvas discussions throughout the course of the semester. Each Canvas discussion is worth 60 points, for a total of 120 points towards your final grade. Discussion posts should include your response to the post, and a response to a classmate’s post. Initial responses of the Canvas discussions should be a minimum of 250 words. *Students must reply to at least one other student’s posts for full point potential* (responding appropriately, of course). For each discussion, your original post will be worth 50 points and the reply will be 10 points. The discussion assignments will be posted on Canvas and available a few days before they are noted on the syllabus schedule. *Discussion due dates are listed in the course calendar below.*

Your discussions will be graded on depth of explanation, utilization of outside sources, specific efforts to back up your arguments with logical points and sources, grammar, and spelling, and adhering to the assignment. A detailed rubric for the discussions is provided at the end of the syllabus.

To locate the discussion boards, click the Discussions tab to the left of the main screen. Select the appropriate Canvas Discussion assignment. Next click on the appropriate forum. To post a comment select “Create Thread.” To receive full credit, you must post an original response and respond to at least one other students’ post. *Note that you will NOT be able to see any other students’ posts until you have first posted a thread yourself.*

**Grading**

- A = 288-320
- B = 256-287
- C = 224-255
- D = 192-223
- F = Below 192 points
Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. SPOT Evaluations are available from Weeks 13-15 in the long semesters.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy
Assignment due dates are listed in the academic calendar listed below. Instructions to complete the Discussion Boards are posted on Canvas. The grading rubric for the Discussion Board is available on Canvas.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Examination Policy
All quizzes are closed-book and students should not use course materials when completing quizzes. Students may use their course materials when completing discussion posts and case studies.

In the event that you lose Internet connection during a quiz, please contact the Student Helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting me.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback
Include a statement:

- I will provide an environment for students to learn and critically reflect on issues surrounding criminal justice practices. I will provide clear instructions for all assignments, including grading rubrics that will be used. I will alert the class to any changes in the course prior to making them.
- I will respond to emails within 24 hours on business days and 72 hours during weekends. I will respond to discussion board posts and provide grades within 1 week of submission.

Late Work
There are no make-up tests/assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed make up if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused (e.g., traveling for a basketball game, observing a religious holiday). If you were critically ill in such a way that you could not complete any required assignment or exam, you must submit a doctor’s note to me within calendar 3 days.
There is absolutely no make-up for assignments turned in late unless authorized as a result of university related absence or through prior consultation and approval by me. Make-up assignments as a result of authorized absences must be turned in within 3 days of returning from the authorized absence. To be excused, any authorized absence must take place over the entire submission window. That is, if a student has an authorized absence for 1 day of a 3-day submission window for an exam or any other assignment, then they will not be excused and will not be able to take a make-up. I strongly recommend not waiting until the last day to complete an assessment in case this occurs.

Attendance Policy

**Authorized Absences:** Absences are authorized only in cases of participation in school sponsored activities and/or religious holidays. For an excused absence due to a school sponsored activity, students must be approved in advance by the department chair and academic dean. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the Dean of Students for presentation to instructor. Students who wish to request an excused absence for religious holidays can do so and will be excused from class as long as they make a request within the required time frame set by the University (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

**COVID-19 impact on attendance**

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Canvas to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as the discussion board.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that it must be modified. In the case that it needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments to the class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student’s responsibility to check announcements/email so that any and all changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements/email does not constitute a defense against a missed Reading, test date, or other applicable changes.

UNT Policies

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition
to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)
The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all
instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT’s Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses
Federal Regulation
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to
completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student’s course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student’s full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student’s permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.
If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student’s written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.

2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.

3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

   Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)
Chosen Names
A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT eulIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns
Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.

You can add your pronouns to your Canvas account so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- How do I use pronouns?
- How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?
- How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

Additional Student Support Services
- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services
- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

**Please note that this schedule is subject to change at any time. Any changes to the schedule will be to the benefit of the entire class and will be announced via an Announcement on Canvas.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES: WEEK</th>
<th>MODULES, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12/13-12/19: 1 | Topic: Module 1  
Reading:  
  - Chapters 1-2  
Assignments:  
  - Discussion 1 Initial Post & Reply to Classmate due by Sunday, 12/19 at 11:59 PM |
| 12/20-12/23: 2 | Topic: Module 2  
Reading:  
  - Chapters 3-4  
Assignments:  
  - Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-4) due by Thursday, 12/23 at 11:59 PM |
| 12/24-1/2 | No Readings/Assignments Due (Winter Break) |
| 1/3-1/9: 3 | Topic: Module 3  
Reading:  
  - Chapters 5-7  
Assignments:  
  - Discussion 2 Initial Post & Reply to Classmate due by Sunday, 1/9 at 11:59 PM |
| 1/10-1/14: 4 | Topic: Module 4  
Reading:  
  - Chapters 8-10  
Assignments:  
  - Quiz 2 (Chapters 5-10) due by Friday, 1/14 at 11:59 PM  
**please note this is a Friday rather than a Sunday as the course ends on 1/14** |
## DISCUSSION POST RUBRIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory-Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Accomplished</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ideas, Arguments, &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas expressed lack an understanding of the discussion topic. Comments are irrelevant, off-topic, and/or confusing to follow. Viewpoint, if given, is not supported with evidence or examples.</td>
<td>Ideas expressed in discussion posts show a minimal understanding of the discussion topic. Comments are general in nature and/or occasionally may not be relevant. Rehashes or summarizes ideas with limited analysis, original thought, and/or supported viewpoints.</td>
<td>Ideas expressed in discussion posts are mostly substantive and relevant to topic; some original thought. Demonstrates logical thinking, reasoning, and/or analysis for most part. Viewpoint is supported with evidence and/or examples.</td>
<td>Ideas expressed in discussion posts exceed expectations in original thought, substantial depth, and are relevant to topic. Viewpoint shows strong logical thinking, reasoning, and analysis with evidence and examples. Construction of new meaning and insights are evident.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connection to Course Materials</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No connections are made to readings or other course materials (lectures, media, resources, etc.), and/or if made, are not clearly stated and are largely personal opinions.</td>
<td>Minimal direct connections are made to readings and/or other course materials (lectures, media, resources, etc.). Connections are largely inferred and somewhat unclear at times.</td>
<td>Some direct connections are made to readings and/or other course materials (lectures, media, resources, etc.) and are clearly stated for the most part.</td>
<td>Strong, direct connections are made to readings and/or other course materials (lectures, media, resources, etc.) and are clearly stated.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Learning Community</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligible contribution to the learning community. Rarely engages with students and generally ignores others’ posts and/or has a negative effect through misrepresenting content in other posts, inappropriate comments made, and/or attempts to dominate the discussion.</td>
<td>Somewhat contributes to the learning community but the focus is generally on own posts. Occasionally interacts with others’ postings but little attempt to involve other students in the discussion. Short statements such as “I agree with...”.</td>
<td>Contributes to the learning community. Often attempts to direct group discussion to present relevant viewpoints and meaningful reflection by others. Interacts respectfully with students.</td>
<td>Effectively contributes to the learning community. Frequently initiates dialogue and motivates group discussion by providing feedback to students’ postings, asking follow-up questions, and through thoughtful, reflective comments. Respectfully encourages a variety of viewpoints and invites contributions from others.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## DISCUSSION POST RUBRIC Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory-Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Accomplished</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Quality</td>
<td>8 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>12 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
<td>/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posts show a below average/poor writing style that lacks standard English, and/or is difficult for readers to follow. Contains frequent errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling. Does not provide any citations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Posts show an average and/or casual writing style using standard English that is generally clear but contains some errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling. Some significant errors in APA citations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion posts show above average writing style that is clear using standard English with minor errors in grammar, punctuation, usage, and/or spelling. Some minor errors in APA citations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion posts are well written and clearly articulated using standard English, characterized by elements of a strong writing style with correct grammar, punctuation, usage, and spelling. Proper use of APA citations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Response</td>
<td>Deduct 10 points</td>
<td>Deduct 3 points</td>
<td>No points deducted</td>
<td>No points deducted</td>
<td>TOTAL POINTS (sum of 5 Criteria) /60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required response post is missing/inadequate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All required postings completed; however, response post only agrees/disagrees and does not provide additional insight.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All required postings by deadline; an adequate response post is given that provides some additional insight.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All required postings by deadline; response is extremely thoughtful and provides additional insight.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>