**Grading Criteria** **– INSTRUCTIONS**

**Please follow these requirements and rubric for each Forum/Discussion Activity assignment:**

3. Each posting must be **at least 500 words long** to receive any credit

4.  Each of the answers must include at least **three APA formatted in-text citations and references** – one internal (course readings, course modules, webliography) and one external (other authoritative sources beyond our course material). Note: No wiki or blog references are allowed.

**Discussion Activity Grading Criteria and Rubric**

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| **Criteria (point scale)** | **Points** | **Performance Below Expectations  (below 80%)** | **Performance Meeting Expectations  (80%-89%)** | **Performance Exceeding Expectations (90%-100%)** |
| **1st Initial Posting  (0-20 points)** |  | ***Indicators for 0-15 points per posting:***  1) Inadequate focus on the question and lack of originality.  2) Inadequate development with details and example(s).  3) Inadequate integration of minimum source(s) required. | ***Indicators for 16-17 points per posting:***  1) Mostly focused on the question with original thinking.  2) Adequately developed with details and example(s).  3) Acceptable integration of minimum source(s) required. | ***Indicators for 18-20 points per posting:***  1) Well-focused on the question with original thinking.  2) Thoroughly developed with in-depth details and example(s).  3) Excellent integration of the minimum source(s) required. |
| **2nd Initial Posting (0-20 points)** |  |
| **1st Response Posting (0-20 points)** |  |
| **2nd Response Posting (0-20 points)** |  |
| **Accuracy in Writing (overall) (0-10 points)** |  | ***0-7 points:***  The number of errors in diction, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure is unacceptable by graduate standard. Or writing style is mostly unclear and incoherent. | ***8 points:***  Writing is acceptable with occasional errors in diction, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure. Writing style is mostly clear and coherent. | ***9-10 points:***  Writing is accurate in diction, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure. Writing style is clear, logical, and coherent. |
| **APA Format (overall) (0-10 points)** |  | ***0-7 points:***  Unacceptable number of errors in APA format in-text citations and reference list. | ***8 points:***  Minor errors in APA format in in-text citations and reference list. | ***9-10 points:***  Accurate use of APA format in in-text citations and reference list. |
| **Total Points (0-100)** |  | ***Note:***  Per Course Syllabus, late penalty (20% per day) applies to each posting that is submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor. | | |
| **Definitions** | **APA Format:** Any use of a source automatically entails in-text citations and a reference list in APA format. | | | |