**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.  |