

# Discussion Board Instructions

Your own initial post is due  
Wednesday!  
Your replies are due Friday!

## HIS 1007 Discussion Board Rubric

Each of the three units will have a discussion prompt.

- Students will complete a post of at least 300 words responding to the prompt for 20 points in each unit. (Due Weeks 5, 9, and 15)
- Students will also comment with a response of at least 50 words to two fellow students for 5 points each, so 10 points total in each unit. (Due Weeks 5, 9, and 15)
- Students can earn a total of 90 points in the semester for discussions.

### Instructions for all Discussion Board Posts:

Write a **response of at least 300-words (your initial post)** to the prompt below for 20 points.

- ✓ Each full-credit response (your initial post) must make multiple references to the book excerpt upon which the prompt is based.
- ✓ Please use page numbers and proper formatting for in-text citations when appropriate.
- ✓ Students are encouraged to reference other materials from the course, especially course lectures and primary sources used in the class.

After posting your initial post, please add a **reply of at least 50 words** to two colleagues' posts for 5 points each.

- ✓ Students are highly encouraged to reference the prompt's book excerpt in these replies as well.

### Unique Contribution

- It is imperative that a discussion point provide a unique contribution to the discussion, rather than parroting what another response said.
- Be sure to provide substantial information from personal thought and research from the class rather than only responding to other colleagues.

### Evidence from the Course

- The post and responses must be rooted in sources from the class.
- *To earn full credit for a **300-word** response (your **initial post**), a student must make multiple references to the book excerpt upon which the prompt is based.* Please use page numbers and proper formatting for in-text citations when appropriate.
- Students are encouraged to reference other materials from the course as well, especially course lectures and primary sources used in the class.
- After posting your initial post, please add a **50-word reply** to two colleagues' posts. *Students are highly encouraged to reference the prompt's book excerpt in these replies as well.*

### Professionalism

- When commenting on a colleague or writing your own post it is acceptable to use elements like humor or informal writing style, but it should be done with a professional tone. When disagreeing, do so with grace and precision. Remember that a classroom is not just another online board; it is for credit in an academic setting.

# Discussion Board Forum Grading

## Your Initial Post

### **20 points:**

The submission meets the length requirement (of at least 300 words) and communicates unique insight. The student demonstrates a strong understanding of the concepts being discussed and ties in scholarly material from the course to support reasoning. Student includes at least four references from the course, especially citing the book upon which the prompt is based. The submission inspires ongoing conversation and/or contributes new ideas related to the topic. No mechanical (grammar, syntax, spelling) errors.

### **15 points:**

The submission communicates a strong understanding of concepts but does not contribute new ideas. Some scholarly material is used to support reasoning. Has the potential to inspire further dialogue. Minor mechanical error. **Or** the submission communicates well-developed thoughts but does not meet the length requirement (of 300 words)

### **10 points:**

The submission communicates basic understanding, demonstrates some thought about the content. Little scholarly material is used to support reasoning. Fulfilled minimal requirements. Contained multiple mechanical errors.

### **5 points:**

Not unique or thorough. The submission communicates little understanding or thought about content. No scholarly material is used to support reasoning. And/or contained multiple mechanical errors.

**0 points:** Failure to post.

## Your Two Replies

### **5 points:**

First reply is 50 words or more and inspires ongoing conversation and/or contributes new ideas related to the topic. Scholarly material is used to support reasoning.

### **3 points:**

First reply is either too short (less than 50 words) or the ideas are less developed. Some scholarly material is used to support reasoning.

### **1 point:**

First reply does not inspire ongoing conversation and/or contribute new ideas related to the topic. No scholarly material is used to support reasoning.

### **0 points:**

Failure to make a first reply

# **HIS 1007 Discussion Board Forum Topics**

## Unit 1 Discussion Board - Weeks 1-5

As you work through this unit, keep in mind the discussion prompt due on Monday of Week 5. Replies will be due by Wednesday of Week 5. Here are the instructions and the prompt:

### **Prompt:**

- Read the following excerpts from Carol Berkin, *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence*, (NY: Vintage Books, 2005).
  - [Berkin excerpt: Intro](#)
  - [Berkin excerpt: Ch. 10](#)
- Discuss how the American Revolution changed the lives of colonial women. Was the Revolution "revolutionary" for the way they lived their lives? Why or why not? Be sure to give specific examples from the book.

## Unit 2 Discussion Board - Weeks 6-9

As you work through this unit, keep in mind the discussion prompt due on Monday of Week 9. Replies will be due by Wednesday of Week 9. Here are the instructions and the prompt:

### **Prompt:**

- Read the following excerpts from Chandra Manning, *What This Cruel War Was Over*, (NY: Knopf, 2007).
  - [Manning excerpt: Intro](#)
  - [Manning excerpt: Ch. 4](#)
- Discuss the role of religion during the Civil War. How did soldiers on each side of the war perceive the role of God in the war's outcome? What was the connection between religion and race, according to Manning? Be sure to give specific examples from the book.

## Unit 3 Discussion Board - Weeks 10-15

As you work through this unit, keep in mind the discussion prompt due on Monday of Week 15. Replies will be due by Wednesday of Week 15. Here are the instructions and the prompt:

### **Prompt:**

- Read the following excerpts from Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*, (Princeton, 2000).
  - [Dudziak excerpt: Intro](#)
  - [Dudziak excerpt: Ch. 3](#)
- Discuss the connection between the Cold War and Civil Rights in mid 20th century American foreign policy. Why did American lawmakers view racial segregation as a Cold War issue? Be sure to give specific examples from the Dudziak book.