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| **Discussion Grading Criteria** | **Maximum Points** |
| Initial Discussion Response | 16 |
| Discussion Participation | 16 |
| Writing Craftsmanship and Ethical Scholarship | 8 |
| **Total:** | **40** |

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|  | **Unsatisfactory** | **Emerging** | **Proficient** | **Exemplary** |
| **Initial Discussion Response \*** | Initial response:   * Did not relate to the concepts or ideas presented in the discussion topic(s) * Claims were not supported. | Initial response:   * Lacked substance * Was not original * Relied on personal experience only to support ideas | Initial response was:   * Original and accurate * Substantive * Demonstrated basic understanding of concepts * Discussed key theories and concepts from the readings | Initial response was:   * Insightful * Original and accurate * Substantive and * Demonstrated advanced understanding of concepts * Compiled/synthesized theories and concepts drawn from a variety of sources to support statements and conclusions. |
| **Discussion Participation \*** | Discussion Responses:  Were off-topic or irrelevant to discussion. | Discussion Responses:  Contributed a few points of view but mostly repeats information posted by others. | Discussion Responses:   * Contributed to the discussion offering points of view and/or opinions, * Did not make clear connections between one or more points in the discussion. | Discussion Responses:   * Offered points of view supported by research * Asked challenging questions that promoted discussion * Drew relationships between one or more points in the discussion. |
| **Writing Craftsmanship and Ethical Scholarship \*** | * Demonstrated little attempt to organize thoughts * Writing was not clear, concise and formal. * Writing contained numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and/or sentence structure that severely interfered with readability and comprehension. * Information from sources was not paraphrased and attribution of sources was lacking. | * Demonstrated some attempt to organize thoughts * Writing was not clear, concise and/or formal. * Errors in spelling and grammar somewhat interfered with readability and/or comprehension. * Information from sources was paraphrased and cited, but major errors were present. | * Wrote in a clear and organized manner * Writing was not concise or formal in language. * Writing followed conventions of spelling and grammar throughout. Errors were infrequent and did not interfere with readability or comprehension. * Information from sources was paraphrased and cited, but minor errors were present. | * Wrote in a clear, concise, formal and organized manner. * Responses were error free. * Information from sources was paraphrased appropriately and accurately cited. |