POL 500 Discussion Guidelines and Rubric

Your active participation in the discussion topics is essential to your overall success this term. Discussion questions are designed to help you make meaningful connections between the course content and the larger concepts and goals of the course. These discussions offer you the opportunity to express your own thoughts, ask questions for clarification, and gain insight from your classmates' responses and instructor's guidance.

Requirements for Discussion Topic Assignments
Students are required to post one initial post and to follow up with at least two response posts for each discussion topic assignment.

For your initial post (1), you must do the following:
- Compose a post of one to two paragraphs.
- In Module One, complete the initial post by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
- In Modules Two through Ten, complete the initial post by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. of your local time zone.
- Take into consideration material such as course content and other discussion topics from the current module and previous modules, when appropriate.
- Reference scholarly or peer-reviewed sources to support your discussion points, as appropriate *(using proper citation methods for your discipline)*.

For your response posts (2), you must do the following:
- Reply to at least two different classmates outside of your own initial post thread.
- In Module One, complete the two response posts by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
- In Modules Two through Ten, complete the response posts by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. of your local time zone.
- Demonstrate more depth and thought than simply stating "I agree" or "You are wrong." *Guidance is provided for you in each discussion prompt.*

Rubric

Critical Elements	Exemplary	Proficient (90%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Comprehension	Develops an initial post with an organized, clear point of view or idea using rich and significant detail (100%)	Develops an initial post with a point of view or idea using appropriate detail (90%)	Develops an initial post with a point of view or idea but with some gaps in organization and detail (70%)	Does not develop an initial post with an organized point of view or idea (0%)	40
Timeliness		Submits initial post on time (100%)	Submits initial post one day late (70%)	Submits initial post two or more days late (0%)	10
Engagement	Provides relevant and meaningful response posts with clarifying explanation and detail	Provides relevant response posts with some explanation and detail (90%)	Provides somewhat relevant response posts with some explanation and detail (70%)	Provides response posts that are generic with little explanation or detail (0%)	30
Writing (Mechanics)	Initial post and responses are easily understood, clear, and concise using proper citation methods where applicable with no errors in citations	Initial post and responses are easily understood using proper citation methods where applicable with few errors in citations	Initial post and responses are understandable using proper citation methods where applicable with a number of errors in citations	Initial post and responses are not understandable and do not use proper citation methods where applicable	20
				Earned Total	**100%**

Comments: