

## Module Response Assignment Description – 4 responses – 2.5% each

A Module Response is a brief (500-word) critical examination of the themes, theories and concepts central to the module and the material we have engaged with during its course. The intention of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to review the material you have already read and discussed in tutorials and lectures, and to reflect upon them retrospectively. This is the place where you should take a step back, look at the large picture, make connections, ask questions and critique what you have encountered.

There are 6 modules in the course. You must post 4 Module Responses in total – 2 in each term - in your tutorial's forum on the course Commons website. You may choose which modules you respond to as they best fit in your schedule, but all 4 are required.

To complete a Module Response, you need to perform 3 critical tasks: **describe, interpret and critique.**

**Describe** the main points of the readings covered in the module in 2-3 sentences each. This requires an understanding of the main themes and arguments in each reading. For each reading, ask questions such as:

- What are the author's key theme(s) and main argument(s)?
- What is the context (historical, cultural, academic) of the article?

You should try to address all of the readings (preferable) or 80% of them (at the very least).

**Interpret** the connections that exist among the module's readings and how they fit together. To do this, you need to have read all of the material and attended tutorial discussions and lectures and draw on these for your own interpretation. Ask yourself questions such as:

- How are the themes and/or arguments that I have identified related to each other and to the other course material (lectures, tutorial discussions)?

**Critique** the material. Note that while *criticism* may be commonly understood as *finding faults*, in academic discourse *critique* additionally means asking questions toward further explorations. In other words, while you may certainly find faults and shortcomings in the arguments and methodologies of what you are critiquing, this is not the sole focus. Ask questions such as:

- What is the significance of what has been covered in the material and discussions in the module?
- What do I agree or disagree with in the concepts, arguments and/or methodologies used in the material?
- Why do I agree or disagree with these?
- What other important points/issues could have been addressed by the authors?
- How did this module affect the way I think about technology and/or communication?

You do not have to answer every question for every reading, but you should try a fair number of them. You also do not need to follow the order listed above. Again, take a step back and look at the larger picture; if you have a good understanding of the readings individually, it will not be difficult to connect the dots and draw this broader perspective.

## **Technical Requirements**

Your response must be written in **formal academic English** and be **500 words long**. **Include a word count** at the end of your text. Responses that are shorter than the required length will be graded accordingly. **Post your response on the discussion forum** on the course website in the section designated for your tutorial. Responses **are due on the last day of each module** (check the schedule for dates), by 9:30 a.m. Late responses will not be marked. No last minute technical assistance will be available. It is your responsibility to give yourself enough time to deal with any un-anticipated problems.