

COMP 492 Assignment 2: Co-Leading a Discussion

Instructions

Important link for this assignment: a Google doc containing our [Discussions sign-up spreadsheet](#). You will be editing this spreadsheet to choose the discussion you plan to co-lead. See detailed instructions below.

Overview of the assignment: The instructor will facilitate each discussion session, but each discussion will also have between zero and four co-leaders. A discussion *co-leader* is a person who has done additional research on the discussion topic and is prepared to offer extra insights and questions. Every student will act as a co-leader for exactly one discussion. You will: choose a discussion; conduct further research into the topic of that discussion; prepare discussion questions and answers; and finally submit your questions and answers to Moodle together with an annotated bibliography.

Detailed instructions for each of these steps is as follows:

- a) **Choose your discussion (due Tue 1/31):** Add your name as one of the four possible co-leaders to any discussion of your choice listed on the discussion sign up spreadsheet (linked above). This is on a first-come first-served basis.
- b) **Conduct additional research on your discussion topic:** You must first of course do the assigned reading from the textbook and/or any reading assigned by the instructor. Then conduct some additional research, eventually selecting two or more documents that you will read carefully in order to amplify your understanding of the topic. It's important that your documents are *authoritative*. Ideally, they should be from scholarly sources, such as peer-reviewed journal articles or published books. If you choose a document that is not from a scholarly source, you should have some other evidence that the information in your source is carefully-researched and of high quality. Read your chosen documents carefully and make notes on them.
- c) **Submit discussion questions (with answers) and annotated bibliography to Moodle (due 3pm on the day of your discussion):**
 - i. Prepare a few questions that can generate interesting discussions on the discussion topic. Write concise answers to the questions. One or two pages should be adequate for this part of the assignment.
 - ii. Prepare an annotated bibliography of your sources: for each source, give a full bibliographic reference and a summary of the content in your own words (100-200 words per source should be fine for this).
 - iii. Submit to Moodle a single document containing your discussion questions (with answers) and the annotated bibliography. This is the assignment labeled "A2" on Moodle. Ignore the deadline specified on Moodle, as the real deadline depends on which day your discussion is scheduled.
- d) **Attend the discussion session and participate in a way that demonstrates your high level of preparation and knowledge of the topic.** Note that the instructor will facilitate the discussion. If possible, the instructor will invite you to lead a segment of the session based on one or more of your own proposed discussion questions. However, this may not always be possible.

Grading

- **Annotated bibliography (30%):** Are the sources of high quality? Is at least one source a scholarly source? Are the bibliographic references correctly formatted and complete? Do the written summaries accurately convey the content?
- **Discussion questions and answers (30%):** Do the discussion questions encourage the participants to consider a good range of issues relevant to the discussion topic? Do some of the questions ensure factual understanding, while others allow for debate and reflection? Are the answers accurate and convincing? Do they present unbiased summaries including both sides of controversial issues?
- **Contribution to in-class discussion (40%):** Does the discussion co-leader demonstrate excellent knowledge of the topic, including an ability to answer their own discussion questions and the questions of others? Is the co-leader able to explain complex content clearly to other participants? Is the co-leader able to acknowledge both sides of controversial issues in discussion? Does the co-leader demonstrate passion and enthusiasm for the topic?