



# Western Civilization from Prehistory to 1650

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## DISCUSSION BOARD EVALUATION CRITERIA

<b>PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION BOARD Assumptions</b>	<p>My purpose in making the discussion board a significant part of this course is not to keep you busy, but to give you an opportunity to read, to reflect, to ask questions, and to grow. I have made the following assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Quantity does not necessarily mean quality.</li> <li>■ You are a serious student who wants to get something out of the course besides a few credit hours and a satisfactory grade.</li> <li>■ You have a reasonable amount of time (five to ten hours per week) to devote to the course.</li> </ul>
<b>Expectations</b>	<p>With this in mind, I have kept the number of messages you are required to post to a minimum. My expectation is that you will exceed that number, not because you are required to do so, but because you are stimulated by course content, have thought about the material, and want to share your ideas, insights, and discoveries with others.</p>
<b>Requirements</b>	<p>If I'm incorrect in my assumptions and find that there is insufficient activity on the discussion board, I reserve the right to provide additional incentives by increasing the number of required weekly postings.</p> <p>You are required to post a minimum of two messages to the Discussion Board each week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One of the messages must be a response to a weekly Discussion Topic question.</li> <li>■ The other must be a response to a classmate's message.</li> </ul>
<b>Standards</b>	<p>There will be several topics from which to choose and you are free to respond to the topics and questions that interest you most.</p> <p>Participation at its best entails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Posting well thought-out responses that reflect extensive knowledge of course documents and suggested readings</li> <li>■ Making a significant contribution to the group's learning experience</li> <li>■ Providing valuable feedback to classmates based on extensive knowledge of their postings</li> </ul> <p>You can make a significant contribution to the group's learning experience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Posing a question, making an observation, or offering a comment that stimulates a worthwhile discussion, illustrates a point with examples, or suggests a new perspective on an issue.</li> <li>■ Presenting a synopsis of a resource which increases the group's knowledge of the topic under consideration.</li> <li>■ Giving an account of a research experience which contributes to the group's understanding of the historiographical process of discovery, analysis, interpretation, communication</li> </ul>
<b>Deadlines</b>	<p>Responses should be submitted to the appropriate weekly forum in the Discussion Board located in the Communications area of the classroom before the deadline (midnight Sunday of the week assigned). Partial credit (50%) will be given for responses posted up to one week late. No credit will be given for responses posted after this two-week period.</p>
<b>Points</b>	<p>Class participation is worth 2 points each week plus an additional 6 points (distributed during the first, second, sixth, eleventh, and fifteenth weeks) for a total of 38 points (38% of your grade). See the attached table for specific grading criteria.</p>

**Weekly Discussion Topics** (assignments worth 20 points each): For contributions posted to the appropriate discussion forum before the deadline, points will be assigned as follows:

NATURE OF POSTINGS		QUALITY OF POSTINGS		NATURE OF CONTRIBUTION		NATURE OF FEEDBACK	
5	Posted a minimum of <b>two messages</b> to the Discussion Board: one in response to a <b>Discussion Topic question</b> and one in response to a <b>classmate's message</b>	5	Posted <b>well thought-out</b> responses that reflect <b>extensive knowledge</b> of course documents, and suggested readings	5	Made a <b>significant contribution</b> to the group's learning experience	5	Provided <b>valuable feedback</b> to classmates based on <b>extensive knowledge</b> of their postings
4	Posted a minimum of <b>two messages</b> to the Discussion Board but <b>missed</b> either a response to a <b>Discussion Topic question</b> or a response to a <b>classmate's message</b>	4	Posted responses that reflect <b>considerable thought</b> and <b>considerable knowledge</b> of course documents and suggested readings	4	Made a <b>reasonably important contribution</b> to the group's learning experience	4	Provided <b>useful feedback</b> to classmates based on <b>considerable knowledge</b> of their postings
3	Posted a minimum of <b>one message</b> to the Discussion Board	3	Posted responses that reflect <b>limited thought</b> and <b>limited knowledge</b> of course documents and suggested readings	3	Made a <b>minor contribution</b> to the group's learning experience	3	Provided <b>limited feedback</b> to classmates based on <b>limited knowledge</b> of their postings
0	Posted <b>no messages</b> to the Discussion Board	0	Posted responses that reflect <b>no thought</b> and <b>no knowledge</b> of course documents and suggested readings	0	Made <b>no contribution</b> to the group's learning experience	0	Provided <b>no feedback</b> to classmates and exhibited <b>no knowledge</b> of their postings

**Special Assignments** (worth a total of 60points in increments of 5 or 10): Additional points (distributed during the first, second, sixth, eleventh, and fifteenth weeks) will be assigned proportionately. If an assignment is worth 10 points, the scale will be 2.5, 2.0, and 1.5. If the assignment is worth 5 points, the scale will be 1.25, 1.0, and 0.75.