

Module Response Assignment Description

A Module Response is a brief (2-3 pages) critical examination of the themes and concept 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. Here is a place where you should take a step back, look at the large picture, make connections, ask questions and critique. You must hand in 3 Module Responses. Due dates are listed in the course schedule.

To complete a Module Response, you need to perform three 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 was(were) the author's main theme(s)?
- What was(were) the author's main argument(s)?
- What was the author's methodology?
- What was the context (historical, cultural, academic) of the article?

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. Ask yourself questions such as:

- What are some common themes and/or arguments in the material?
- What are some related themes and/or arguments?
- What were the intentions in including these material in the same module?

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 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 questions do they raise for me?
- What other important points/issues could have been addressed by the authors?
- By building on what I have learned from these authors, what are some potential areas for further investigation?
- What did I get from this module?
- Where can I go from here?

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 here. A Module Response is an **essay** and you should write it as continuous text with a beginning, middle and an end, rather than in point form. 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 the large picture.