**Reflection Journal Instructions**

**Humanities 1100**

**Prof. Bitter**

One of the major assignments for this class is that you keep “Reflection Journals” that reflect upon the materials of the course and the questions they raise. The goal for these is that you are doing more than just reading, but that you are taking time to develop your thoughts on some of the readings and ideas we discuss. You will have a total of 25 entries by the end of the semester. Each entry is worth 4 points, making the total worth 100 points. You will do 6 entries for every section we cover, and 1 entry on a reading from the opening “Critical Thinking…” section of the textbook. You may choose which readings you want to write on (as long as they are ones that have been assigned), but there will be times when I assign you specific readings to write on.

**Instructions:** For each entry you will choose a **single reading** to write about and **one or two questions**(but no more than two questions) to respond to that relate to the reading. These questions can be ones that we discuss in class or they can be your own questions. However, as the semester goes on, you should be coming up with your own questions. It should be **clear to me what reading and what questions** you are addressing, so **write those at the top of each entry**. In responding to the questions, you should **cite passages** from the reading that show me you have read and thought about the reading, and that help you to develop or explain your own ideas and add depth to your thinking. Your entries should be **at least 1 page**, but please do not write more than 2 pages per entry. You must type these journals in 12 pt. font, double-spaced. If you do not meet these minimum requirements, then I will deduct points. (And please do not create extra space at the top of the page or in the margins to take up space.)

**Due:** I will let you know when the journals are due as we go along, but they will be turned in to me at the end of every section we study, which is about once a month. It is important that you do not fall behind on these journals as this will cause you trouble later on and will often bring about a poorer quality in your entries. To help you stay on track, you should plan on writing two entries a week. *Remember,* my late policy also applies to journals; you can turn them in up to 1 week late but will receive at most 70% credit.

**Expectations:** Naturally, more comprehensive, complete, and *reflective* journals will garner higher grades than those that contain the minimal answers that show little self-reflection. In other words, I will be looking for how well you demonstrate that you have thought about the reading, the questions, and the ideas that you are trying to express. You can think of these readings as an extension of our class discussions. Your goal in these journals is to show me your THINKING minds at work and that you are trying to UNDERSTAND various ideas.

**Note:** Your entries should *not be* a collection of notes that you took during class discussions. You may supplement them with thoughts from class, but your journals should be more polished and organized than class notes.