**COMP491 Assignments NQP1-7: Discussion Notes, Questions, and Participation**

Each of the assignments NQP1-7 corresponds to an in-class discussion of an assigned reading. “NQP” stands for Notes, Question, and Participation. To prepare for each discussion, students must:

1. Carefully read the assigned reading. While reading, prepare handwritten notes, typically 0.5-1 pages or more.
   * These notes must be written by hand, on paper, in pen or pencil. Notes may not be typed, printed, or written electronically.
   * The notes should summarize, critique, and question the assigned reading, containing enough detail to assist you in participating actively in a discussion about the assigned reading.
2. Before 9 AM on the day of the discussion session, post at least one question to the Moodle forum for the discussion.
   * At least one of your posted questions should demonstrate that you have thought about the assigned reading and gained insight into it.
   * If there are aspects of the reading you do not understand, you are encouraged to post questions asking for information or explanations. But this probably does not count as your question that demonstrates insight.
3. Attend the discussion session and participate actively.
   * It is not necessary to speak at length in every discussion. The important thing is to demonstrate that you have thought about the reading and you are willing to make occasional contributions. It is is preferable to make brief, concise, insightful points rather than speaking for a long time.

**Lowest grade dropped:** The lowest grade from NQP1-7 will be dropped.

**No electronic devices or printed materials:** During discussions, participants may refer only to handwritten notes except for specific activities described by the instructor. At most times, no printed materials or electronic devices will be used.

**Making up a missed discussion:** If you are absent from the discussion session (regardless of whether your absence is excused in advance or not), you can still receive credit for the notes and discussion question component. To also receive credit for the participation component, you must write a blog post about the reading. In your blog post, discuss and respond to one or more of the questions posted by other students. Your post should be made publicly available online somewhere (e.g. tumblr.com). The post must be at least 800 words in length. Submit a link to your blog post to the Moodle forum. The link must be submitted within three days of our discussion session.

**Rubric:** To obtain an excellent grade on these assignments, you must excel on the following aspects.

* Your notes are comprehensive.
* At least one of your posted questions demonstrates insight into the assigned reading.
* Your participation in the classroom discussion demonstrates insight into and curiosity about the reading.