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## Course Structure and Pedagogical Approach

Welcome to a dynamic and interactive learning environment designed to foster critical thinking, effective communication, and a deep understanding of the course material. Our class sessions will follow a structured format that prioritizes active engagement and collaborative learning:

### 1. Student Presentations (15 minutes):

- Every student is required to sign-up for one of the readings over the course of the semester, and to present to the class a 15 minute summary of that reading.
- This activity serves multiple purposes:
  - **Active Recall:** It helps you consolidate your understanding of the reading by explaining its central idea(s) to your peers.
  - **Preparation for Discussion:** It provides a starting point for our class discussion and helps us identify key areas of interest or potential disagreement.
- If you have a valid reason from the university such that this assignment would cause you an undue burden, then we will work together to come up with an equivalent assignment.

### 2. Guided Lecture and Discussion (40 minutes):

- I will lead a lecture that expands upon the author's thesis, highlighting key concepts, evidence, and arguments.
- This is not a passive lecture; you are encouraged to actively participate by asking questions, sharing your insights, and challenging ideas.
- The goal is to foster a collaborative learning environment where we collectively explore the nuances and complexities of the text.

### 3. Objections, Clarifications, and Final Thoughts (20 minutes):

- This segment is dedicated to addressing any remaining questions, clarifying confusing points, and exploring alternative interpretations of the text.
- I encourage you to raise objections to the author's arguments, offer alternative perspectives, and engage in respectful debate with your classmates.
- This is an opportunity to synthesize your understanding of the material and develop your critical thinking skills.

### Pedagogical Rationale:

This structured approach is grounded in several key pedagogical principles:

- **Active Learning:** You are not passive recipients of information; you are active participants in the learning process.
- **Constructivism:** You construct your own understanding of the material through active engagement, discussion, and reflection.
- **Social Learning:** You learn from and with your peers through collaborative activities and discussions.
- **Critical Thinking:** You are encouraged to question assumptions, evaluate evidence, and formulate your own informed opinions.

**Expectations:**

- Come to class prepared, having read the assigned material carefully.
- Actively participate in class discussions and activities.
- Respect the opinions and perspectives of your classmates.
- Be open to challenging your own assumptions and beliefs.

By embracing this pedagogical approach, you will not only gain a deeper understanding of the course material but also develop valuable skills in critical thinking, communication, and collaboration that will serve you well in your academic and professional pursuits.