**Overview and Assessment for Essay Exams**

**Overview**

At the end of each unit, there will be a proctored essay exam. Each exam will consist of three questions that are broad in scope. The answers should be fully developed and demonstrate an understanding of the textbook and other relevant course material. Each question will have 15 points possible, for a total of 45 points possible for each exam.

**Assessment**

Five areas are assessed for each answer. They are as follows:

* Application of concepts from the textbook
* Application of concepts from the lectures and other course materials (videos, readings)
* Depth of understanding of material
* Development of ideas and examples
* Mechanics and style (organization, grammar, spelling)

Each of these areas will be assigned points on a scale of 1 to 3 for each answer. The following rubric provides guidance as to the expectations.

**Essay Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **3 Points** | **2 Points** | **1 Point** |
| **Application of concepts from the textbook** | Relevant concepts, theories, or research from the textbook are presented in depth and applied to the topic appropriately. | A few concepts, theories, or research from the textbook are presented, but may be lacking in depth or not clearly applied to the topic. | Relevant concepts, theories, or research from the textbook are only superficially mentioned, or are absent. |
| **Application of concepts from the lectures and other course materials (videos, readings)** | Relevant concepts, theories, or research from the lectures and other course material are presented in depth and applied to the topic appropriately. | A few concepts, theories, or research from the lectures and other course material are presented, but may be lacking in depth or not clearly applied to the topic. | Relevant concepts, theories, or research from the lectures and other course material are only superficially mentioned, or are absent. |
| **Depth of understanding of material** | Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the material and how it relates to the topic. | Demonstrates a basic comprehension of the course material, but may be lacking in details and depth. | The essay lacks coherence and does not demonstrate knowledge of the course material. |
| **Development of ideas and examples** | The relationship of examples used to the course material is clearly stated, and well developed. General statements are well grounded in details. | Examples are provided, but the connection to the course material may be vague or not fully developed. | The essay does not respond directly to the topic, or the ideas and examples are too brief to address the assignment. |
| **Mechanics and style (organization, grammar, spelling)** | The essay is well organized, with few, if any, grammatical or spelling errors. | Grammatical, spelling, and organizational errors may distract the reader. The essay will be generally grammatically correct. | Mechanical errors and style issues may significantly impair the reader’s ability to understand the essay. |