

Guidelines for Writing the Review Essay

The review essay required for this class is a scholarly piece of writing that should provide for the reader an evaluation of the text reviewed. This is not a book report, and therefore the overview or summary should be minimal, featuring just enough material to demonstrate that you have read and comprehended the text. The majority of the writing should consist in your critical discussion of the major themes, arguments, issues or ideas raised by the author. The overview should be approximately one-third of your written text; your critical discussion and evaluation should be the remaining two-thirds.

The review essay is due at the beginning of class on Monday, November 22, 2010. It must be typed and clearly printed, and only hardcopies will be accepted. Email or other forms of electronic submission will not be accepted. Your review essay must be double spaced, with margins of 1" all around, a minimum of four pages, and a maximum of five pages. Please be sure to include page numbers and staple your pages together in order; unstapled papers will not be accepted. Each review essay must include a cover page that contains the following: (1) Full publication information for the text selected for review; (2) Student name; and (3) date. Students should consider the review essay to be a formal writing assignments. Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and standard writing conventions must be attended to, and will factor into grading. Students should treat the review like an essay, with an introduction, body, and conclusion and clear discussion of the topic(s) on which you choose to write.

Bear in mind that the review essay is NOT a book report or summary of the text you selected. Your review essay should provide much greater detail than your reaction papers and should demonstrate your intellectual progress and development in the course. The basic structure of your review essay should be: (1) Introduction; (2) Summary; (3) Critical Discussion; (4) Conclusion. "Critical discussion" means your evaluation of the contribution the book makes to your discipline or a particular field of study. In our case, you should evaluate and critically discuss your selected text as it pertains to issues of race and racism and to the concerns regarding race and racism in the social and human sciences. You might find it beneficial to refer to general undergraduate writing guides, available at the library or bookstores. Your writing should be clear and precise, not vague or impressionistic. Avoid overgeneralizations and sweeping conclusions. You should base your writing on specifics from the readings, such as a particular argument, concept, or quote, and you MUST make appropriate and proper reference to the materials you use.

If you have questions, please contact the instructor at catey@ufl.edu.