THEATRE 100-293: INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE
Online version

Dates: Spring 2019
Credits: 3 (~120 hours)
Location & Meeting Time: Online
Instructor: Alvaro Saar Rios
Contact Information: riosa@uwm.edu
Office: Theatre 280, Peck School of the Arts, UWM
Office Hours: Monday 11am-12:30pm; and by appointment only
Teaching Assistant: Brittany Curran bncurran@uwm.edu

Catalogue Description: Introduction to the theatre as a form of artistic, social and human expression from point-of-view of both theatre audience and theatre artist.

Course Description: Theatre 100 provides a general introduction to theatre as a performing and collaborative art. It is designed to provide students with a background, framework, and vocabulary for seeing and discussing live theatre events. In this course, we will examine each major area of theatrical production (directing, acting, design, etc.) and will gain a working understanding of the various elements—historical, textual, and performative—that inform theatrical practice.

  • This book has been placed on order at uwm.ecampus.com
  • No other editions will be accepted for this course.
  • If money is an issue consider renting the text or buying a used copy.

Grading Policies: Your final grade will be calculated according to the following breakdown.
  2 exams: 15% each for 30% total
  Writing assignments #1-5: 25% (5 points each)
  Writing Assignment #6: 10% (10 points)
  7 quizzes: 20% (Quiz 1 is worth 2 points; Quizzes 2-7 are worth 3 points)
  Group project: 15 %

• If you have a condition that requires special accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. We will make an appointment to discuss your VISA and your accommodations. I am happy to make accommodations for documented disabilities. However, please note that: 1) you must provide official documentation (VISA) in order to have accommodations made; 2) I will not retroactively provide accommodations; and 3) accommodations cannot be made unless and until you have formally discussed implementation with me.

• Make-up Policy and Unit Completion Policy: As described above, there are no make-ups for required coursework in this class. If you miss a quiz, forget an exam, fail to complete a response, etc., you miss the points. As a general rule, all Unit material will be open to you for the duration of the Unit (that is, either one or two class weeks, as indicated in the schedule). Therefore, you will have multiple days in which to complete your coursework, and all deadlines are listed on the syllabus. Class weeks generally run Monday-Sunday (Exam weeks are exceptions). You cannot complete Unit work once the Unit has closed.

• It is your responsibility to keep up with course material, and to submit all assignments on time. Keep a close eye on your own schedule to ensure that you make class deadlines. The D2L
“clock” time represents the correct time for the purposes of this course. All assignments are due on their respective deadlines based on Central Standard Time (CST). **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN IF AN ASSIGNMENT IS TURNED IN LATE.**

- **Keep backup copies of all your written assignments!** Never compose your work on the D2L site without backing it up in some way! It’s your responsibility to ensure that assignments are posted in complete and readable formats.

- **Extra credit will be available for this course.** Possible options for extra credit include seeing a UWM Theatre production or a professional production. Once the “Extra Credit” D2L dropbox closes, no other extra credit assignments will be accepted.

**Assignments:**

**Exams (GER Assignment):** Two exams will be given over the course of the semester. These exams will consist of objective questions (multiple choice, T/F, and the like) and short-answer questions. The exams will be timed tests that you will take via D2L. Review sheets will be provided prior to exams. **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have about a week to complete them, exams cannot be made up.**

**Writing Assignments (GER Assignment):** Over the course of the term, you will have 6 opportunities to communicate your ideas with me and with your classmates via the D2L site. Writing assignments #1-5 will be worth 5 points and #6 is worth 10 points. The format of these responses will vary depending on the needs of the course: some will be 250-300 word, focused responses to questions I provide, and you’ll post and discuss your answers in the “Discussions” area of the site. Some assignments will consist of short paragraphs that you’ll send to me privately via the site’s Dropbox. Finally, some of these will be assignments that allow you to make progress on your group project. In all cases, specific assignments and instructions will be provided to you well in advance of the due date. **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have a significant amount of time in which to complete them, these responses cannot be made up.** Remember also that these are formal writing assignments, and therefore, a formal writing style is expected and required. Any assignments attached to a discussion post or submitted to the dropbox must be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format. Rubric for GER grading is included at the end of this syllabus.

**Quizzes:** There will be 7 quizzes given throughout the semester. Most of these quizzes will be 3-point quizzes given via the D2L site. The exception is Quiz 1, which is worth 2 points. Quizzes may cover any portion of class material (assigned reading, lecture content, clips or visual material, online discussions, etc.). **Since you know when these will occur, and since you will have about a week to complete them, quizzes cannot be made up.** You’ll need to budget your time and watch your schedule to ensure you complete them on time. The quizzes are time-limited so you should study for them as astutely as you would an in-class, closed book quiz. **WARNING:** Do not attempt to take a D2L quiz on your phone. Wifi can very unreliable. If you lose your wifi connection, you will not be able to complete the quiz. Your instructor will not open the quiz again.

**Group Project:** The final project is intended to give you a taste of what it might be like to plan a production. **After the midterm,** you will be placed into small groups (chosen randomly) and will conceptualize, cast, and design, and plan a hypothetical production. Each group member will choose a “task” (role) within the production team, and will report to one another—and me—about production plans. Your group work will take place
within a customized area of the D2L site, where you can communicate with one another via a private discussion forum and share documents in your own lockers. Your final grade for this project will be based on three components: the overall group project, your individual write-up, and an evaluation of your fellow group members.

**Grading scale:** Exam grades, project grades and final course grades are calculated on the following scale (note that quizzes and written exercises are graded on a point system as described above):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>76-73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>69-67</td>
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<td>66-63</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>Below</td>
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**Contacting the Instructor:** The fastest and most effective way of getting in touch with me is via email (riosa@uwm.edu), I generally respond within 24 hours at the maximum, but please note any e-mails sent on Sunday will not be replied to until Monday morning. Please put “**Theatre 100 online**” as your subject header: I get a ton of email every day, and I would not want to miss yours in the shuffle!

**Online Course Information:** This course is offered entirely online. While you are responsible for obtaining the text (above), all other course materials will be accessible online for reading and viewing. All assignments, including quizzes, exams, writing assignments, and group projects, will be completed and graded online.

**Computer Skills and Resources Needed:**

**Skills:** You will need basic word processing skills, the ability to send and receive email through your ePanther email account, and a simple understanding of how to access and browse Web sites, including our course Web site on D2L. A D2L Help Guide is included with this syllabus, should you need. **A word to the wise: checking your ePanther account and our course Website regularly is crucial to your ability to do well in this course!**

**Resources:** You will need access to a computer that has a broadband connection (such as Roadrunner or DSL) or a campus network connection to the Web. **Note: Dialup access is NOT sufficient to pass this course!** You will find yourself unable to obtain course materials and complete course requirements.

The computer you use must have a basic word processing package such as Microsoft Word. You will also need to be able to view PowerPoints, Adobe PDF files, Windows Media (.wmv) files, Quicktime MPEG 4 movies, and Flash Media (.swf) files. The D2L login page also contains a link to a system check, so that you can ensure that your computer settings are D2L compatible.

**Apportioning Your Time:**

If you’re taking this online course because you think it will be easier or take less time, please think again! Students are often surprised to find that online courses require at least as much weekly time, and sometimes more, than face-to-face classes! While you are not physically attending class or traveling to and from campus for this course, you will need to devote several hours per week to the completion of course tasks.

It will be *up to you* to organize your time effectively in order to complete your work in a self-motivated fashion. This can be difficult to do in an online course, though I will try to help keep you on track! **But please be aware: if you have the tendency to put things off or to be disorganized—especially where computers are concerned—this course may not be suitable for you.**
You should plan to spend, on average, **6 hours per week** working on this course. Even though we will not be meeting as a group at traditional times, I suggest that you **set aside regular times each week** to complete your coursework. Here are some typical course tasks, and the amount of time you should plan to complete them (bearing in mind that these guidelines presuppose that you are a motivated student who is comfortable with technology):

- **Reading text and online lecture material, viewing clips**: 4 hrs/unit
- **Reviewing material for quizzes**: 2 hrs/unit
- **Preparing and posting written assignments**: 2-3 hrs/unit
- **Reading the boards and contributing responses**: 2 hrs/unit
- **Studying for exams**: 5-8 hrs/exam
- **Group Project**: Variable, but expect 15-20 hrs.

**Academic Integrity (read this section carefully, as it outlines the penalty you can expect to receive if you violate the policy):** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty is neither condoned nor tolerated at UWM. UWM's Academic Misconduct policies and procedures will be enforced in this class; this policy can be read at [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/uws014.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/uws014.pdf) on the website of the Office of the Dean of Students. **If you violate these policies you will receive a grade of F in this course, and will be reported immediately to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee, which has the option of recommending even higher sanctions.**

**Don’t forget to see the Frequently Asked Questions on page 8**
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced to you via the D2L site.

**Unit 1: The Beginning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Tuesday 1/22 - Sunday 1/27 | 1. Download and read the course syllabus, posted on the D2L site  
2. Ensure that you have the necessary equipment and programs  
3. Explore the course site  
4. Read “Guidelines to Quiz 1” on D2L site  
5. Read Wilson Chapter 1 (Experiencing Theatre) and Chapter 2 (The Audience) up to page 36! | 1. “Quiz 1”: Complete Quiz #1 by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 1/27. No credit will be given for late posts! |

**Unit 2: Genres in the Theatre**

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</table>
| Monday 1/28 - Sunday 2/3 | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 9 (Tragedy, Comedy, & Tragicomedy)  
2. View Unit 2 Content on Tragedy and Comedy  
3. Study for Quiz | 1. Complete Quiz 2 on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 2/3 |
| Monday 2/4 -Sunday 2/10 | 1. Review material  
2. Read “Guidelines for Writing Assignment 1” | 1. Writing Assignment 1, “Theatre in Your Life”: Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 2/6; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 2/10 |

**Unit 3: Styles and “-isms”**

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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2. View Unit 3 Content on Realism and Anti-Realism  
3. Study for Quiz | 1. Complete Quiz 3 on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 2/17 |
| Monday 2/18 - Sunday 2/24 | 1. Review material  
2. Read “Guidelines for Writing Assignment 2” | 1. Writing Assignment 2, “Anti-Realism”: Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 2/20; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 2/24 |
## Unit 4: The Art and Craft of the Director

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 2/25 - Sunday 3/3 | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 6 (The Director & Producer)  
2. View Unit 4 Content on Directing  
3. Study for Quiz          | 1. Complete Quiz 4 on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 3/3         |

### Midterm Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</table>
| Monday 3/4 - Sunday 3/10 | 1. Prepare for Midterm Exam  
2. Read “Guidelines for Writing Assignment 3” | 1. Midterm Exam must be completed on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Friday 3/8  
2. Writing Assignment 3 (Midterm review) must be completed by 11:59 pm, Sunday 3/10 |

## Unit 5: Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 3/11 - Sunday 3/17| 1. Read Wilson Chapters 10, 11, and 12 (The Designers)  
2. View Unit 5 Content on Design  
3. Study for Quiz           | 1. Complete Quiz 5 on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Sunday 3/17         |
| Monday 3/25 - Sunday 3/31 | 1. Review material  
2. Read “Guidelines for Writing Assignment 4” | 1. Writing Assignment 4, “Responding to Visual Design”: Initial post due by 11:59 pm, Wednesday 3/27; Follow-up post due by 11:59 pm, Sunday 3/31 |

## Unit 6: Acting

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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| Monday 4/1 - Sunday 4/7  | 1. Read Wilson Chapter 5 (Acting)  
2. View Unit 6 Content on Acting  
3. Study for Quiz           | 1. Complete Quiz 6 on D2L by 11:59 pm, Sunday 4/7            |
### Unit 7: The Art of Spectatorship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4/15 -</td>
<td>1. Read Wilson Chapter 3 (Background &amp; Expectations of the Audience)</td>
<td>1. Complete Quiz 7 on D2L by 11:59 pm, Sunday 4/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 4/21</td>
<td>2. View Unit 7 Content on Audiences</td>
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<td>3. Study for Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 4/22 -</td>
<td>1. Review Material</td>
<td>1. Writing Assignment 6 “Plan a Night at the Theatre;” Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 4/28</td>
<td>2. Read “Guidelines for Writing Assignment 6”</td>
<td>in Dropbox by 11:59pm, Sunday, 4/28</td>
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### Unit 8: Conclusions—The Future of Theatre and Final Projects

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 5/5</td>
<td>298-299</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. View Unit 8 Content on Theatre and Media</td>
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<td>3. Wrap Up Group Project work</td>
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<td>Monday 5/6 –Friday</td>
<td>1. Read “Final Exam Review Sheet”</td>
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<td>5/10</td>
<td>2. Prepare for Final Exam</td>
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### Final Exam

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 5/11 –</td>
<td>1. Take Final Exam</td>
<td>1. Final Exam will open 12:01am, Saturday 5/11. It must</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5/15</td>
<td></td>
<td>be completed on D2L by 11:59 pm(CST), Wednesday 5/15</td>
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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I really need the required book? Yes.

Can I turn in an assignment late? No. For this course, one minute late is still late. All deadlines are posted in the syllabus, please plan accordingly.

If I miss a quiz, can I make it up? No. If you miss a quiz, you are highly encouraged to do extra credit.

If I miss an exam, can I make it up? No. It is in your best interest not to miss an exam. Some people have still passed the course even though they missed a mid-term or final exam. This was possible only because their quiz grades and writing assignments were excellent.

Can I take the quiz on my phone or a laptop with wifi? If one decides to do this, one should also accept the consequences if the wifi goes out. Wifi is not always reliable. If the wifi goes out, the system will log you out of the quiz. Once that happens, I am unable to re-open the quiz.

When will I be assigned into groups for the Final Group Project? After the mid-term.

If I e-mail you on Sunday, when can I expect a response? Expect a response within 24 hours. I do my best to respond as soon as possible but if the email is sent on the weekend, I can’t promise I will respond the same day.

I bought my ticket for a UWM play online and didn’t get the student discount. Why is that? The box office only sells discounted student tickets in person. Make sure to have your student ID with you.

Can I get extra credit by seeing a professional play or musical production in my town? Yes. See the “Extra Credit Guidelines” located in Unit 4.

Can I get extra credit for a production I saw last summer or last year? No. Extra credit options are only for those productions that take place while you are taking my course.

Can I get extra credit for seeing a high school production? No.

What do I do if I have problems with D2L? If you have problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can’t get on) or if you run into any other difficulties with D2L, help is available from the UWM Help Desk, not your instructor! You may do one of the following:

- Send an email to help@uwm.edu
- Call the UWM Help Desk at 414.229.4040

How do I take quizzes on D2L? Click on [Quizzes] in the main navigation bar, then click on the name of the quiz you are to take. Then, when you’re ready to start, click on [Start Quiz]. You will have a very limited amount of time to take your quiz, so you’ll probably not have time to look up the answers in your course materials!

NOTE: Make sure you [Save] each answer as you take the quiz, then [Save] and [Submit] the entire quiz when you get to the end.

Why is your syllabus so loooooooooong? If this were an in person course, the syllabus would be a lot shorter because I would explain everything. Since this is an online course, it helps for me to write down everything in order to prevent confusion. My hope is that by explaining everything I can minimize the amount of time being utilized emailing back and forth.

**************************************************************************
GER Rationale: This course is part of the GER Breadth requirement it satisfies the Arts credit requirement and focuses on UWM Shared Learning Goals(SLG) as well.

This course addresses Arts GER Criteria.
Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the choices (stylistic, historical, etc.) that influence theatrical production (Criteria #1)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the components of collaborative creativity, and the work of the collaborators themselves (Criteria #2)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions that govern the creation, presentation, and consumption of theatre (Criteria #3)

THR 100 addresses the following SLGs:

SLG #1) Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World: THR 100 focuses on theatre as a cultural expression. Students demonstrate a working knowledge and how the elements of performance, design, and dramatic storytelling are found in everyday life.

- Assignment: Writing Assignment
- Assessment: See rubric at end of syllabus

SLG #2) Critical and Creative Thinking Skills: THR 100 focuses a broad view of how theatre functions as a creative art form. Students are required to demonstrate a working knowledge of theatre practices.

- GER Assignment: Knowledge Acquisition: Exams
- Assessment: The exam requires students to recall facts and information about theatre practices and process and to synthesize and analyze this information. Questions are posed and awarded points according to the difficulty and higher level thinking (basic fact recall, for example is awarded less weight than do short essays, which require students to create their own theories and perspectives. Therefore, to succeed on this exam students must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the subject. Students successfully demonstrate competency with this SLO if they receive a C+ or better (A=100-90% of points; B=89-80% of points; C=79%-75%, C=74%-70%, D=69-60% below this % students receive an "F").

Important Information for Students: The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) is dedicated to a safe, supportive and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduates and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination and Absence for University Sponsored Events. The details of this information are listed in the first module in the D2L portion of the course. Please refer to the D2L portion of the course. For detailed information on all policies including Conduct, Religious Observances, Evaluation, Grading, Exams, and Military Service please see:

http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/
# Writing Assignment #1

## Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Exceptional</strong></th>
<th><strong>Distinctive</strong></th>
<th><strong>Successful</strong></th>
<th><strong>Substandard</strong></th>
<th><strong>Failing</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Full Points</td>
<td>B 75% of points</td>
<td>C 65% of points</td>
<td>D 50% of points</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Response Only: clear; cohesive; thoroughly explained</td>
<td>clear but not thoroughly explained</td>
<td>some parts unclear</td>
<td>unfocused; minor typos; does not meet word count</td>
<td>unclear; many typos; late submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Response Only: thorough and timely response to a peer's post;</td>
<td>timely response to peer's post; clear but not thoroughly explained</td>
<td>timely response; unclear ideas</td>
<td>timely response; does not meet word count; minor typos</td>
<td>many typos; late submission</td>
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