

ART 474: The Public Monument in Renaissance and Baroque Italy Prof. Poole-Jones

Discussion Boards: Directions & Expectations

- Effective online discussions are an integral component of this course, and your participation is crucial to not only your success in this course, but to the success of the course overall. You are all expected to initiate threads, responding to the discussion questions/tasks that I will pose for you, as well as to classmates' postings.
- What follows is designed to promote vibrant, thought-provoking, courteous exchanges that will enhance the material we cover together face-to-face in the classroom. To that end, it is crucial that all members of this course are aware of proper online behavior. Above all, be respectful of differences and the ideas of others while engaging in online discussions and use appropriate language for an educational environment. Disagreement and spirited debate with authors, the professor, and classmates are okay, verbal attacks are not. For more information about Netiquette, see *The Core Rules for Netiquette* by Virginia Shea: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Two Part Format:

Initial Contribution

- When you are required to create a **new thread**, please be sure to completely answer the question(s) asked in the initial discussion prompt. Use complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, and avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations. Always proofread one final time before hitting submit! You must cite sources if necessary, for example with direct quotes or heavily paraphrased text, and in parenthetical format, i.e. (Poole-Jones, 35).

Responses

- **Three substantial responses** to other students' postings are required per Discussion Board. In addition, you must "stay on top" of your original thread, moderating your classmates' responses to your post (the easiest way to do this is to "subscribe" to the Discussion Board and/or monitor the "unread replies to me" column). A substantial response is insightful, critical, and constructive; it can be sharing a fact, anecdote, observation or personal experience that is relevant to the discussion; it goes beyond "I agree" or "I had a similar experience/reaction/thought" or "That's neat." In addition, when you are responding to a thread (or comment) within the discussion, it's always a good idea to be clear about who you are responding to, and what part of their statement it is that you are referencing. You may wish to copy and paste the statement you are responding to, as well as adding who said it, and then construct your response.

Rubric

Discussion Boards will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Original Posting/New Thread (60%):

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Demonstrates an excellent understanding of key concepts/arguments; analyzes/evaluates at a critical level; mentions specific points from the readings or class lecture; thoroughly covers all required elements	√+ (100)
Demonstrates a limited understanding of some key concepts/arguments; tends to rephrase/summarize rather than analyze; some evidence of critical thinking; some reference to specific points from readings or class lectures; covers most required elements	√ (85)
Demonstrates inadequate understanding of the material; rarely takes a stand on issues; insufficient analysis/critical thinking; insufficient reference to specific points from readings or class lectures; short and rushed postings; missing some key required elements	√- (70)
No significant understanding of the material; no significant analysis or reference to readings or class lecture; missing a significant number of required elements; minimal and/or irrelevant posting	50
No post; unacceptable discussion board etiquette.	0

Responses to Others' Threads (30%):

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Responses to classmates are appropriate, thoughtful, and substantial; good discussion board etiquette; actively moderates original post/thread, encouraging additional discussion among classmates.	√+ (100)
Offers satisfactory responses to classmates' posts, although more summary than original contributions; some moderating of original post/thread.	√ (85)
Responses reveal only surface-level engagement with classmates' posts and are not sufficiently original; little or no moderating of original post/thread; OR responses are less than the required number.	√- (70)
Responses are minimal and/or irrelevant, lacking evidence of engagement with classmates; no moderating of original post/thread; OR responses are significantly less than the required number.	50
No responses; unacceptable discussion board etiquette.	0

Presentation (10%):

Proofread for spelling errors; grammatically correct; clearly expressed and organized at sentence and paragraph level; well written with appropriate citations.