Las Vegas Quizzes

Quizzes over the assigned readings for this course will be administered at random as determined by the role of a die at the beginning of each class session. In special circumstances, a quiz may be dictated by me without using the die.

The quiz is NOT open book, but you are welcome to make handwritten notes which you may use during a quiz. All answers should be in essay format using complete sentences. Please include references to page numbers as appropriate. There will be no makeup quizzes, but the lowest quiz score will be dropped. No more than 7 minutes will be allowed for a quiz.

Details:
At the beginning of each class we will role a die. If a 1, 2, or 3 appears, there will no quiz. We will continue with class discussion. If a 4, 5, or 6 appears, there will be a quiz; we will roll the die again to determine which of the following questions will be answered.

Questions:

1: Knowledge: Describe the major thesis, the central idea or set of ideas in the reading. Make certain that the thesis you identify is primary. Also include one or two closely related secondary ideas or theses, clearly identifying them as such.

2: Comparison: Identify two concepts or principles presented in the reading and, when you first mention each, underline and define it. Then, show how the concepts or principles in some way(s) are both similar and different from one another. If you wish, one of the concepts or principles can be selected from another reading, lecture or discussion in this course.

3: Application: Select a concept or principle in the chapter or article, clearly define or describe it, and then indicate how it applies to you or someone you know. Provide sufficient detail to clarify precisely your understanding of the concept or principle.

4: Critique: Write a critical perspective on some aspect of the chapter or article, citing evidence that prompts you to agree or disagree with the author’s perspective. Note that a critique may be positive, negative, or some combination of both. Your evidence may be based on (1) personal experience, (2) reports or observations of others, (3) scientific findings, or (4) logic. When citing evidence, identify the type(s) of evidence you are using.

5: Passion: Citing page number(s), quote verbatim a statement or brief passage that elicits in you some type of emotional response: excitement, frustration, pleasure, anger, sadness, surprise, confusion, fear, delight or some combination of the above. Then identify your emotional response, describe the meaning(s) that the statement or passage has for you, and provide actual or possible reasons for your response.

6: Student’s Choice (of any of the questions above)

Grading on quizzes:

9 The answer shows thorough understanding of the material.

8 The answer shows understanding of the material, but may be less than complete or may be slightly off the target concept.

7 The answer is not correct, but demonstrates some meaningful understanding of the material presented.

6 The answer is incorrect, but is clearly presented using good grammar, organization, and techniques we have discussed in class or readings as applicable.

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