

REACTION PAPER GUIDELINES

- the assessed reaction paper (RP) has to be focused on any one of the module's seminar readings, and must not exceed the 1250-word limit. You must submit three separate RPs on three different seminar readings (not lecture or further readings).
- the three RPs have a weighting of 50% of the final module mark.
- references (in text or footnotes) are included in the word limit, whilst the bibliography is not.
- the bibliography should include all works cited (only).
- RP title: reaction to...(title of the one specific seminar reading you are reacting to, and include publication details).
- an RP ought to present your own analysis and more importantly, your critical evaluation of the (main) argument(s): what are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument(s)? You can critically examine and evaluate what you think are significant dimensions of the argument(s) within the reading.
- your analysis and evaluation ought to show how these have been developed and formulated with reference to the module topics and other lecture and seminar readings (other academic readings are most certainly welcome). Evidence of wider (academic) readings and research of academic sources that underpin your analysis and evaluations allow you to score higher marks. Your readings should not be limited to the readings of that particular week, rather you ought to be able to demonstrate how you are able to constructively bring together a comprehensive variety of topics and readings into your critical analysis and evaluations.
- your RP references should not exceed 5 (including the reading you are reviewing).
- the RP should be clearly structured (introduction, main body and conclusion). Your introduction should be as concise as possible, so as to allow you more room to develop a detailed critical analysis / evaluation of the reading. The main body of your RP should not be a summary of the reading (you can concisely summarize the reading in the introduction).
- the RP should be properly referenced (detailed references should include page numbers). See guidelines for referencing on Moodle. If you are not sure if something should be referenced, then reference it. A good indicator of the need to reference something is considering whether or not your peers would need to be informed in detail about it. Nevertheless, if there is doubt, then it is prudent to reference it. There is no preference for a particular style of referencing (see Moodle handout for more information).
- failure to reference can lead to suspicion of plagiarism, which is a very serious offence.
- style of narrative: there is no preference for style of narrative (first-person or third-person, although third-person is more common in academic writing).
- ensure that your RP is thoroughly edited and proofread. Grammatical and spelling errors do not significantly influence the grade, but it is expected that at this level, these should be corrected by editing.
- the RP should be formally formatted (size 12 characters, and line spacing should be x2).