ENGL204: Essay Prompts and Self-Grading Rubric

Choose TWO (2) questions from among the following CUMULATIVE and UNIT questions, and then write two short essays (Interpretive Question Responses) to the questions that you have chosen.

For each of the two questions that you have chosen, please write a 2-3 page Interpretive Question Response.

Then, self-check each of the two essays on a 30 POINT scale, using the following instruction.

Therefore, a total of 60 POINTS is possible in the essay assessment portion for this course.

Here is how each of the Interpretive Question Responses should be graded:

6 pts—You must have a thesis statement, one or two sentences, that directly answers the interpretive question that is posed. It is often helpful to underline your thesis statement. Therefore, to self-grade your Interpretive Question Response, please identify and re-read your thesis statement. This is important, because the thesis gives direction and shape to your response. If you have no point to prove, you really have not responded deeply to the interpretive question. Look at your thesis, and consider how well you have fully answered the question posed.

6 POINTS = You have a powerful and well-focused thesis statement.

- The reader definitely knows your intent by reading the thesis.
- You specifically announce the subject you are exploring in your thesis statement.

5 POINTS = You have a focused and generally effective purpose statement.

- The reader has a good idea of your intent by reading the thesis.
- You generally announce the subject you are exploring in your thesis statement.

4 POINTS = Your thesis statement could be made stronger, more definite/more focused.

- The reader does not have an exact idea of your intent by reading your thesis statement.
- You need to announce more specifically the subject you are exploring in your thesis.
3 POINTS-1 POINT = You have problems with the clarity and focus of your thesis statement.

0 POINTS = You are unable to identify a thesis statement in your Interpretive Response.

24 pts—After you have an underlined thesis that answers the question directly, you must name 3 pieces of evidence that support your thesis statement. Each piece of evidence must come from the course content itself. Evidence may include actual pieces of art, architecture, literature, music, and philosophical and religious texts, or academic lectures or essays in the course materials. You should spend at least 2-4 sentences analyzing your evidence and explaining how the evidence you have chosen proves your point (your thesis). For each of the three pieces of primary evidence from the course materials that you name and analyze in 2-4 sentences, you will receive 8 pts. Thus, the three pieces of evidence are worth a total of 24 points.

Pre-writing is a great way to help organize and craft an essay. The following outline may help you craft your essay. Please complete this outline for each essay before crafting a final draft. You may also use this outline to help you identify your thesis and supporting evidence in self-grading your essay.

I. Discussion Question Response (One or two sentences that directly answer the question. This is your thesis statement) 6pts:

II. First Piece of Evidence that Supports Your Response (Name your evidence and then give at least 2-4 sentences to explain why this evidence supports your answer) 8pts:

II. Second Piece of Evidence that Supports Your Response (Name your evidence and then give at least 2-4 sentences to explain why this evidence supports your answer) 8pts:
II. Third Piece of Evidence that Supports Your Response (Name your evidence and then give at least 2-4 sentences to explain why this evidence supports your answer)

8pts:

CUMULATIVE INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

1) What are the similarities and differences between the terms “modernism” and “modernity?” Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your comparison and contrast of the terms “modernism” and “modernity.”

2) What are the cultural effects of World War I and World War II on the development and expression of a variety of literary and artistic forms? Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

UNIT ONE INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

3) What are the thematic preoccupations of modern literary and artistic production, especially the “Art for Art’s Sake” movement and the aesthetics of Décadence? Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

4) What is the importance of the metropolis to the themes and ideas of modern art and literature? Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

5) Explain the significance of the British Empire and especially the role of colonialism and imperialism in the novelistic work of Joseph Conrad. Make certain to use the actual works of Joseph Conrad in your response.

UNIT TWO INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS
6) Explain and identify the major tenets, preoccupations, and defining characteristics of a number of sub-movements within modern art and literature including Imagism, Vorticism, the Avant-Garde, Futurism, Cubism, and Dadaism. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

7) Account for and explain the significance of the effect of the Great War on modern consciousness, subjectivity, and aesthetics. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

UNIT THREE INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

8) Explain the phenomenon of American literary ex-patriotism, and identify the elements of this literary moment in the work of, among other writers, Ernest Hemingway. Make certain to use specific works of literature to illustrate your thesis.

9) Identify the differences and similarities between a number of women writers from this period, including Gertrude Stein and Virginia Woolf. Make certain to use specific works of literature to illustrate your thesis.

UNIT FOUR INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

10) Identify and explain a number of the most important elements of High Modernist art, including alienation, self-consciousness, solipsism, (dis)order, and innovation. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

11) Compare and contrast the work of Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and James Joyce. Make certain to use specific works of literature to illustrate your thesis.

12) Analyze the aftermath of the Great War on modern memory, consciousness, and aesthetics. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

13) Analyze the genre of stream-of-consciousness narrative. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.
UNIT FIVE INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

14) Define and then analyze “postmodernism” as both a historical period as well as a movement in literature, culture, and the arts. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

15) Compare and contrast the postmodern elements found in the work of a range of literary figures, including Samuel Beckett, Jorge Luis Borges, and Vladimir Nabokov. Make certain to use specific works of literature to illustrate your thesis.

16) Define and explain the genre of Magical Realism. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.

UNIT SIX INTERPRETIVE RESPONSE QUESTIONS

17) Compare and contrast the postcolonial elements that define the works of a range of world authors, including Derek Walcott, Chinua Achebe, Deepika Bahri, W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, E. M. Forster, Salman Rushdie, and Arundhati Roy. Make certain to use specific works of literature to illustrate your thesis.

18) Define the terms “postmodernism” and “deconstruction” as well as the phrase “Magical Realism,” and identify the most important characteristics of the movements, fields, theories, and texts associated with these terms. Make certain to use specific works of literature, poetry, art, music, architecture, cinema, philosophy, or drama to illustrate your thesis.