Rubric for scoring discussion leadership

6: Discussion leader participates actively in the on-line discussion; works with session guest faculty to structure in-class discussion prior to coming to class; comes to class very well prepared to lead the discussion, having carefully and critically read the assigned reading materials, and is prepared with relevant outside materials beyond those readings required for the session; facilitates discussion by guiding, but not dominating the discussion; appropriately encourages and allows participation of all students; shows interest in and respect for the views of others; participates actively. (Letter grade equivalent: A).

5: Discussion leader participates actively in the on-line discussion; works with session guest faculty to structure in-class discussion prior to coming to class; comes to class prepared, having carefully and critically read the assigned reading materials; facilitates discussion; shows interest in and respect for others’ views. (Letter grade equivalent: B+ to A-).

4-3: Two types of students occur in this range. The first is a discussion leader who does their best and generally does a good job at facilitating discussion, but who is not as prepared for the session as they could be, is not engaged in the on-line discussion, or who does not engage with the session guest faculty in advance to structure the in-class discussion. The other type of student comes to class prepared, but does not do a strong job facilitating discussion, does not show as much respect for the views of others that they could, demonstrates some level of domination by “over-directing” the discussion, or leads the discussion in tangential directions that do not significantly advance the learning of the group. (Letter grade equivalent: B- to B).

2-1: A score of 1 or 2 is given to discussion leaders that have an inadequate understanding of the reading materials, to a degree that their lack of preparedness impedes the discussion. Alternatively, this score is also given to leaders that impede discussion through significant over-domination, demonstrating lack of respect for other students or their perspectives. (Letter grade equivalent: D to C+).

0: Discussion leaders receiving a 0 are unacceptably unprepared. (Letter grade equivalent: F).