**Reflective writing exercise guidelines**

**Assignment**

Each of you has been involved in a particularly wide range of activities and learning exercises during this course. Here, I want you to reflect on them and write a short piece that addresses the following question.

**If you accept that the most valuable learning results in personal change, what are the three most valuable lessons you have learned as a result of participating in this course?**

The exercise is designed to be an opportunity to further develop your ability for critical and original thinking as you reflect on what you have gained from the course. I want you to document your thoughts in concise well-written form in a paper of about three double-spaced pages. Note that it will be very easy to write some sort of submission, but deep thinking and reflection is required to get more than a mere ‘pass’. I am looking for a lot more than just quick thoughts. – This is a ‘quality, not quantity’ exercise, and accordingly the paper is worth 30% of your course grade.

It will be graded according to the following criteria:

1. Evidence of original, critical, reflective thinking
2. Synthesis of ideas (evidence of bringing together related ideas and developing unifying original perspectives)
3. Writing quality (Follow the important dictum that one of the primary goals of a writer should be to make the reader’s job easy)

**Notes:**

Please submit a hardcopy to me by 11.30 am on Monday March 31st at 11.30 (at the beginning of our second last class).

Please type it in Times New Roman font size 12 and double space the text with 2 cm margins. As indicated above the complete text of the final essay should be about 3 pages and definitely no longer than 4 pages.

An overall title is required, and subsection headings are strongly encouraged.

**Resources (for this exercise, but also for your future reference)**

Note that there are substantial resources at Queen's to help you in developing your learning and writing skills (<http://sass.queensu.ca/learningstrategies/>). See the Writing Centre (<http://sass.queensu.ca/writingcentre/>) to view their online resources or to make an appointment for one-on-one tutorial assistance. Plan ahead because it can take weeks to get an appointment late in the term when things get busy. In addition the Writing Centre provides useful sets of short guidelines (<http://sass.queensu.ca/writingcentre/tipsheets/>) on many aspects of writing including how to develop a thesis statement, how to structure a good paragraph, and how to develop an essay outline.

In addition, the following guidebooks on writing skills are particularly good:

Schimel, J. 2012. Science: How to Write Papers That Get Cited and Proposals That Get Funded. Oxford University Press.

Strunk, W. Jr. 2000. The Elements of Style (4th Edition)

Williams, J.M. and Colomb, G.G. 2010. Lessons in Style and Grace in Writing (10th edition)