

Assignment 4
Due Monday 7/11/25 by 5:00 p.m.
Book Review

In consultation with Dr. Kroeker, choose a book, preferably from the bibliography for the course, to read and review using standard reviewing protocols for a journal in your field. The final product should be about 1,000 words and worthy of publication in a scholarly publication.

Purpose of an Academic Book Review

Academic book reviews, also known as scholarly reviews, are found in scholarly journals and are written for scholars by scholars. They usually inform fellow scholars of the quality, purpose, and argument of a book and explain how it fits into the current literature in the field, and in this case, the readings covered in the class. A book review can be helpful for fellow professionals so they can decide whether or not to read or purchase the book.

An academic book review is not a literature review that synthesizes current published material on a specific topic, provides a summary of other scholars' research, or points out gaps in said research. Rather, academic book reviews focus on the scholarly significance of a book and its arguments. An academic book review is the summary, analysis, and critique of a book written by practitioners for practitioners. Reviewers consider the other theories and research within the topic and use the book review to describe where it fits in the current framework. The reviewer will also explain what other potential readers will find this book helpful and why.

Scoring Guidelines

Good (A):

- Representation of content: The review accurately and thoroughly represents the content and point of view of the author.
- Connection to readings and lectures: The review effectively integrates multiple course readings and sources covered in class.
- Organization and Mechanics: Review is within length requirements, is well-structured and coherent, with clear organization and smooth mechanics.
- Demonstrates connection to/evaluation of other books and authors in the field.

Acceptable (B):

- Representation of content: The review represents most of the content and intent of the author.
- Connection to readings and lectures: The review demonstrates an understanding of course content and materials and integrates at least one perspective or segment of the course readings and classes.

- Organization and Mechanics: The writing is organized and grammatically correct, although there may be some minor errors, or it may fall slightly outside of the length guidelines.

- **Needs Improvement (C and below):**

- Representation of Content: Review needs additional depth in its discussion of the topics covered in the book or considers only one area the author covers.
- Connection to readings and lectures: The assignment needs additional integration of course readings and lectures.
- Organization and Mechanics: The writing lacks coherence or organization, with significant issues in grammar, syntax, or other mechanical aspects that hinder readability and comprehension, or the assignment falls significantly outside of the length guidelines.
- Demonstrates little comprehension of material presented in the book.