

# Progress Pensées Instructions

For each week in which a progress *pensées* discussion is scheduled, you must:

1. Submit one post with your own *pensées* by the Tuesday of the scheduled week.
  - a. Your *pensées* must interact with and cite at least one source from the readings scheduled for that week or the week immediately prior. *Pensées* may not be drawn from readings more than one week previous. Thus, for example, in week 5, readings from weeks 1–3 could no longer be used. If nothing in the “Texts” section of the syllabus’s required materials list comes up in the readings scheduled for a given week, you may draw *pensées* from one week farther back. Thus, for example, in week 5, if no readings are assigned for week 4, you could draw your *pensées* from week 3.
  - b. Your *pensées* should show evidence of your substantive rumination over the readings involved in your post. Posts should generally be 100–300 words, but you may vary outside this range occasionally. You may make an argument, ponder a problem, pose a question, or adopt other formats for your post as seems conducive to the character of the *pensées* it contains. The syllabus requires several “Progress *pensées*” discussions.
  - c. Your total contribution in these discussions over the course of the term must equal or exceed a total 125 words times the number of progress *pensées* discussions that the course contains (including your original posts and your replies to your classmates). For instance, if the course contains two such discussions, your total contribution needs to be at least 250 words. Or if the course contains six such discussions, your total contribution would need to be at least 750 words.
2. Submit one post that replies to a classmate’s *pensées* by the Sunday of the scheduled week.
  - a. Your reply must interact with your classmate’s post and cite at least one source from the readings scheduled since the last “Progress *pensées*” discussion week. *Pensées* may not be drawn from farther back than this. Citations of classmate’s posts will not count toward this requirement. Citations that match the citation(s) in your classmate’s post will also not count. Thus, if a classmate cites “Childs, *Biblical Theology*, 240,” your citation of “Childs, *Biblical Theology*, 240” would not count as your reply’s citation, but “Childs, *Biblical Theology*, 175” or another eligible source *would* satisfy that requirement.
  - b. Your reply should show evidence of your substantive rumination over both your classmate’s *pensées* and the readings involved. Replies should generally be 50–150 words, but you may vary outside this range occasionally.
  - c. If none of your classmates has posted their *pensées* by the end of the Tuesday of the scheduled week, you may meet your reply requirement either by (a) waiting for a classmate to post and replying to that post or (b) making a second *pensées* post of your own. In either case, this second post will still be due by the Sunday of the scheduled week.

As with our live seminar meetings, participation in these discussions is a basic expectation of the course. Therefore, per the syllabus, this exercise will not mathematically factor into your overall course grade if properly done. Exceptions are as follows:

1. Late posts: Each day any post is late will reduce your overall course average by 0.5%. Thus, for example, if you are 1 day late on each of 5 posts, your overall course average would be reduced by 2.5%.
2. Non-conforming posts: I have deliberately allowed you some substantial freedom in what you do with your posts for this exercise. Substantial deviations from the description given above, however—especially if repeated—may result in the non-conforming posts' being treated as not submitted. Each post not submitted or treated as such will reduce your overall course average by 10% (= 0.5% per day \* 20 days).