

## Overview Criteria:

**A) Knowledge and Comprehension:** At a minimum, the student should demonstrate that she/he has carefully read the material and retained a knowledge of the particulars with which the book deals. More importantly, the student should demonstrate comprehension of the main principles or generalizations (i.e., thesis and major points) of the book.

**B) Methodology:** The student should be able to describe and evaluate the author's approach to the subject, research process, and use of evidence. This includes such things as the ability to identify the key works from the bibliography that have influenced the research, to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, to judge the validity of definitions, to judge the reliability of evidence cited, and to interpret the statistical evidence (graphs, tables, etc) that may be included.

**C) Clarification of Values:** The student should be able to 1) identify the viewpoint and values of the author and the culture; political, philosophical, and historical roots of those values; 2) identify and understand the roots of one's own personal view point and values; and 3) articulate the differences between one's own values and those of the author.

**D) Analysis:** The student should be able to discover and articulate important concepts and theories developed by the author and to offer a thoughtful critique of the material. This includes the ability to discern strong and weak points in the arguments of the author.

**E) Synthesis:** The student should be able to integrate the overview material with relevant material drawn from coursework, personal experience, and current events.

**F) General Communication:** The student should be able to state clearly and precisely what she/he wants to say.

## Scoring:

Only items A-E will be used in scoring. Item F will be for student feedback and departmental assessment but will NOT COUNT toward a pass on the overview.

Each student should be rated on a scale of 1-5.

1 =poor                      3=average, adequate                      5=excellent

10 points or less:      FAIL (must return for another session)  
11-14 points:          MARGINAL (return at option of panel)  
15-20 points:          PASS  
21 points or more:      PASS WITH DISTINCTION