

**Essay (35%).** You will construct a concise 1,200 - 1,500 word essay to illustrate a deeper knowledge of architectural theory while cultivating critical thinking skills. Through carefully thought out and well researched argumentation you are expected to take a position related to a theoretical construct. The thesis of your essay should be specific and narrow in scope rather than a summary of the readings. All sources must be properly cited according to one of the commonly accepted formats and included as endnotes. The essay assignment will be comprised of six stages; Draft Essay, Draft Review, Draft Back Evaluation, Final Essay, Final Review, and Final Back Evaluation.

Evaluations (see rubric for evaluation criteria) will incorporate the SWoRD system; a tool that facilitates structured peer review (for more information, refer to [www.lrdc.pitt.edu/sword/studentfaq.htm](http://www.lrdc.pitt.edu/sword/studentfaq.htm); for account setup go to [sword.lrdc.pitt.edu](http://sword.lrdc.pitt.edu)). You will be responsible for reviewing five essays written by classmates. Final grades will be based on peer evaluations as well as the quality of feedback given (60% for the quality of your paper, 20% for the quality of your reviews, and 20% for completing the task). Although this method of evaluation may initially seem strange, research has shown that peer evaluations can be as accurate as those provided by faculty. Moreover, peer evaluation has been linked to substantially increased learning. Reviewing another's work helps sharpen your own - in terms of complexity of thought, knowledge of content, and quality of writing. For a short tutorial on giving good peer feedback on writing, refer to <http://www.pitt.edu/~schunn/feedback>.