

## Learning Diary – Instructions

Learning diary is an instrument for your learning. It helps you to become more conscious of how you are learning and why. It is a tool for improving on your writing skills and to enhance your knowledge about the course theme.

Learning diary shows your progress during the course. Through the learning diary the teacher gets to know you as an individual thinker rather than as an anonymous part of a larger group.

In the learning diary, you are expected to *document* and *reflect* what you have grasped about different topics, concepts and theories that have been discussed during class and read about in the course literature. This means that you do not merely summarize what the teacher has said. Include your own thoughts, reflections, analyses and judgments of the topics. You can also take up issues and questions that have not come up during class or the course, but which you still find important.

When writing the learning diary, you are more than welcome to illustrate it with your own examples (e.g. your own sketches, images, topical issues from newspapers or magazines, comic strips, art works, etc.) if they relate to and enhance your argument.

The learning diary should follow the structure of the course *and you should write down your thought right after each class*. This way you do not forget what you discussed, learned and thought during the class. Your comments and arguments must connect to the salient points discussed during each class. When you write the learning diary, think at least about the following questions:

- What did I learn?
- What did I enjoy?
- Which things did I find useful and which not?
- Which things did I find difficult, less interesting, even boring? Why?

Ask those questions also concerning the whole course.

You are welcome to disagree with teacher(s) and other students, but remember, that critical thinking is not about opinions but about well-grounded argumentation. Remember always to justify your criticism and disagreement, and offer another, in your mind more plausible, point of view!

You can make headlines to structure your text. You can use the class headlines, but you are more than welcome to use your own imagination.

The learning diary can be long if you are eager to reflect your experiences, but the average length of a learning diary is approximately 10–15 pages for the whole course.