

Discussion Board Guidelines

Throughout the semester, everyone in the class is required to participate in the Discussion Board on CourseWorks. Posting will help you stay on top of the material and get a deeper understanding for the topics at hand. During Weeks 2-14, you are required to post *at least twice each week*. You have until *11:59am the Wednesday before each class* to post at least two times.

Every student will be assigned a week to be a discussion board leader. For that week, you are responsible for setting up the larger topics for discussion (the “threads”) and for monitoring the discussion as it unfolds. Discussion threads must be created on CourseWorks by *5pm the Friday before the class you are assigned*.

As with any conversation, the discussion group will be exactly as interesting as you make it. Post questions, comments, replies, or even replies to replies (as the conversation will get heated at times). Make sure that at least one of your posts includes an original question – do not duplicate a question already posted.

The content of your entries must be relevant to the course material for that week. You can write about anything you want, as long as it is about the topic for that week. You can comment on material in the readings. You can bring in your own relevant knowledge or personal experience, as long as it illuminates the material. You can discuss how the material explains or confuses anything about daily interactions, political issues, or other areas of psychology and nlp. You can include links to other research articles, media articles, etc.

There is no official minimum or maximum length. The point is NOT for you to write an enormous multi-page essay for each entry. A well-thought-through question can be more useful to discourse (as well as scientific inquiry in general) than extensive exposition or argumentation. Also, you are not expected to be an expert in this field. The discussion is meant to help you explore the class topics.

Make sure your contributions are thoughtful and well considered. Complete the course readings and synthesize the material before you post. Remember, it is not about length but about the depth of your postings.

Requirements

As discussion board participant:

- Post at least twice each week by 11:59 am the Wednesday before class.
- Do not duplicate previous postings.
- Have at least one post include an original question.
- Post in at least two different threads.
- Posts must be on the specified topics and need to demonstrate that you have read and synthesized the course material.

As discussion board leader:

- Each leader must create one discussion thread by 5pm the Friday before class.
- Each assigned reading must be included in at least one thread. This means a different discussion thread may be started for each reading or a discussion thread may encompass multiple readings. It is up to the leaders to coordinate this.

- Manage the discussion board as the conversation unfolds. Post as many times as you feel necessary to continue and synthesize the discussions. It is up to the leaders to coordinate this.

Grading

Participating in the discussion board is worth 10% of your final grade. Each week you will be given a grade from 0-3.

- To get 1 point, all you need to do is post at least two times by the deadline under two different threads.
- The quality of your posting determines whether you get 1, 2 or 3 points.

Leading the discussion board is worth 5% of your final grade. You will receive a grade from 0-3.

- Your grade is based on the starting thread you post. This should be well thought out.
- Your grade is also based on how well you manage the discussion throughout the week. You are required to stay on top of the discussion board to keep the discussion going throughout the week.