

EPD 151, Spring 2010

Orientation Session – discussion overview

How Discussion works:

- Just like an in-person class, your **participation is important**.
- I will also check your progress in discussion periodically. “We want you to do well in this class, to learn and to get a good grade. Participating is part of that.”
- **You NEED to make at least one or two substantive posts each unit, depending on the unit (3-4 posts a week)** – but part of your participation for the course will be **reading other students posts**. Please post a response if you have something to add to a classmate’s post – it makes class more fun when we all participate.
- **Mini –conversation: Ask students, “What do you think makes a substantive post in a discussion for a class like this?”** Await reply, to see what students actually think before we tell them.
- A **“substantive” post** is one that:
 - Does not merely agree with another post, but elaborates on why you agree or raises a new idea
 - Is relevant to the unit discussion assignments (other general questions can be posted to the general discussion section or emailed)
 - Demonstrates that you have read and thought about the unit content
- Grading: **2 points** for each unit if you meet these criteria.
- Also, you must respond to any **questions or corrections from the instructors** that are addressed to you personally on the discussion board. *Plan the time to log into each discussion more than once; Early in the new unit for your original post, and then again as needed to respond to classmates’ or instructor posts before the deadline.*
- You can look at your progress in the **Activity Report** tab of your Profile page: how many you’ve posted and how many you’ve read.
- Each week, I will review your discussions and post your grade for that unit by Saturday/Sunday night.

Activities:

- Lead the in-class discussion posting: introduce yourself to your classmates and include what your hometown is famous for. Then reply to one of your classmate’s posts.
- Practice searching discussions: select “show search” from within a unit discussion; search by instructor name, thread title, etc.; show options

Review:

- Post one substantive original discussion each unit.
- Read your classmates' posts
- Post a response to one classmates' post if required (part 2)
- Respond to any questions or corrections addressed to you on the discussion board (read the responses to your posts)