



Discussion Board Examples From Online Course Syllabi

Example 1

Discussion Board: A percentage of your grade is based on your posts on the Discussion Boards. If you are required to post on the discussion board, it will be clearly indicated in that week's assignment. You must post at least **twice** to each discussion board unless otherwise indicated in the assignment description. One post should be your response to the questions posed in the discussion board. The other post should be a thoughtful response to another student's post.

In order to receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by **Thursday at midnight ET**. In addition, you must post a response to another student's post by **Sunday at midnight ET**.

Your grade on the discussion board is based on participation. Each discussion board assignment is worth 10 points. However, in order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements:

- Posts should be a minimum of 150 words
- Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed, but should also attempt to introduce a new point of view or piece of information or otherwise further the discussion
- Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation and vocabulary appropriate for a university-level course. Misuse of the discussion boards will not be tolerated.

Example 2

Discussion Posts

You will be required to participate in six discussion posts during the semester. Active participation in the online discussions helps create a learning community and gives you opportunities to work with and get to know other students. Discussion questions and instructions are located by week in the Course Materials section of the course site. See the Calendar for due dates and times.

Example 3

Discussion Board:

Discussion Board is where we will assess your participation as if you were in a regular in-person class. You are expected to be an active and engaged member of the class throughout the semester. Students will be placed in a discussion board group.

The discussion board is the way to exchange ideas and learn from your classmates. Each student is expected to fully participate in the discussion boards. It is estimated discussion posts will total 200 points. Discussion posts take numerous forms. It could involve summarizing articles, responding to questions from the P/SCM text, or viewing and commenting on streaming videos about SCM. After stating your idea(s) you are expected to respond to classmates ideas.

Issues and questions will be posted on the discussion board and students will be required to respond with logically documented responses. Your responses will be evaluated on both quantity and quality. This requires you to: 1) submit an initial post of your opinion; 2) read other students' responses; and 3) respond to their comments. This will involve submitting multiple posts. In order to gain maximum points and value from this exercise, students should be involved early in this process. Waiting until the last day of the week to be engaged in this process results in limited interaction and less points received.

Example 4

Discussion Board. Participation in discussion is an important part of this course. The Master's graduate in Nursing Education is expected to be well informed about educational practice and issues. The graduate student should be able to demonstrate evidence of reflective thought while discussing a topic and the ability to support a position based on evidence from the literature. In addition, the ability to engage in discussion with respectful consideration of others opinions is expected. Be sure reference citations are consistent with APA format.

Individual student responses to discussion questions must be posted no later than Thursday midnight of the assigned week. Student responses posted after that time will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for the week. Student responses to other student postings must be posted by Sunday midnight to be considered in the Discussion grade for that week.

Example 5

Participation in Course (Discussion Boards)

2 points per week, weeks 1-15 (minus the week of spring break), lowest 4 discarded. No makeups or late participation counted (you have 4 weeks to be absent or do as you wish). Discussion period ends Sunday nights for grading purposes, although you may feel free to continue a conversation if it is useful to you.

You are expected to be an active participant in each week's discussion. You have a full week to participate, so there should be no reason for you to not be able to do so. Please think of these posts not as busy work, but rather as an opportunity to explore and build on the readings, thereby learning in the process. Participation is a matter of not only quantity of posts (having a presence), but also quality of posts. What constitutes high quality participation in an online discussion? For this class I'll be looking for posts that:

Are substantive in content. While it's nice give brief feedback like "thanks" and "good idea" to your classmates and such messages are not discouraged, they do not count toward your graded contributions. On the flip side, you're not expected to write mini-essays or monologues. In fact, those tend to cut down on dialogue. You're just expected to back up your examples and opinions with sufficient evidence that your reader will believe in what you say.

Are thoughtful and well composed. And spelling and grammar both count.

Are responsive either to the initial question or to someone's reply. Each week you should be engaged in dialogue with others, not just replying to the initial discussion question. Indeed, it can get mighty redundant in some instances if everyone replies to the initial prompt and no one replies to each other.

Extend the conversation in meaningful ways. Don't just repeat what others have said, but make a new point, provide a new piece of evidence, or ask an insightful question. And questions are just as meaningful and valuable as posts that offer up one's knowledge! It should go without saying, but I'll say it anyway, that while differences of opinion are fine, treating each other with respect is expected at all times.

And to answer the ever popular "But how many?" question, you should have at least 4 posts meeting the above criteria each week.

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board is where we assess your participation as if you were in a regular in-person class. You are expected to be an active and engaged member of the class. You will be required to participate in **at least six discussion posts** during the semester. Discussion posts take numerous forms. They could involve responding to questions and commenting on the lecture presentations or texts, summarizing articles, responding to cases, or answering another student's questions regarding the material.

In order to receive credit, you must post your response to the posted discussion board questions by **Friday @ 5:00 pm ET**. In addition, you must post a response to another student's post by **Tuesday @ 5:00pm ET**.

Each discussion board assignment is **worth _____ points**. In order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements.

Posts should be a minimum of **100 words**.

Posts should be relevant to the topic being discussed.

Posts should extend the conversation by introducing a new point of view or piece of information that furthers the discussion.

Posts should use correct grammar, punctuation and vocabulary appropriate for a university-level course.