

Discussion Forum Rules and Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Discussion Forum is to facilitate learning anywhere anytime by any enrolled student. This is especially important as you need to complete readings and exercises before class session. The key to a useful discussion forum is participation, and you are encouraged to participate by posting questions and responding to valid questions. Use the forum instead of emails for course-related questions.

Contributions to discussion forum will be graded as participation marks. Good contributions will score higher marks than normal contributions. Quality is more important than quantity after the minimum requirements are met. It is far easier to pass than to score A. Minimum requirement to pass (50% of participation marks): 10 normal contributions in the forum.

Contributions include new posts (questions, response to questions, or follow-up comments) and improvement edits to existing posts. Irrelevant or inappropriate post will have marks deducted, may be deleted by the instructor, and may result in disciplinary action.

We will be trying out a new discussion forum platform “Piazza” to see if it is effective for our learning. [Link to Official How-To](#). Please provide feedback about the forum platform to the Course coordinator.

Rules:

1. You may post a question in the forum if the question does not exist. Provide useful information e.g. screenshot, R code, Python code, error msg... etc. [Link to an example](#). [How to insert code](#).
2. You may post question that seeks clarification on a graded assessment but do not ask for any solution to any part of the assessment.
3. You may edit a question to improve its clarity but do not change the nature of the question.
4. You may post your response to any question, but do not post a response to any request for solution to any part of a graded assessment. Else you may be facilitating academic dishonesty. Inform your instructor of such a request.
5. You may edit the current response to improve the clarity or quality of the response. This ensures a collective response per question. i.e. One high quality response to one question, wiki-like. A history bar will show the evolution. [Link to example 1](#). [Link to example 2](#).
6. You may post follow-up comments or discussions on the completed question – response pair. [Link to how-to](#). But, if it improves the response, edit the response directly.
7. Quote / acknowledge your sources. Cite appropriate references when using someone else’s ideas, thoughts, or words. Else you may be guilty of plagiarism.

Code of Conduct:

1. **Be Polite.** Do not insult, condescend, abuse, harass, or use profanity. Polite debate is welcome on ideas, concepts, formulas, data, or code but not on the person. Co-build a safe, conducive environment for learning and discussion.
2. **Be Kind and Thoughtful.** Participants in the forum could be from different country, race, religion, gender, culture, or experience and may not think the same way you do. Separate facts and science from opinion or personal preference.
3. **Post Relevant and Appropriate Content.** The forum is for a specific learning purpose. Do not post pornographic or offensive content. Do not digress. Do not spam with repetitive or marketing content. Do not post copyrighted content unless relevant and granted permission.
4. Comply with university Honour Code, Academic Integrity Policy and Singapore laws.
5. Report abuse or violation of the Rules or Code of Conduct to the instructor.

I hope this platform will be useful as the online discussion forum for your learning and discussion. Piazza is also available on Android and iOS apps. NTULearn is still the main platform for announcements, course materials and graded assessment submissions.

All the best for your learning and do let me know if Piazza is useful as the discussion forum.

Best wishes,

Neumann Chew C. H.

Course Coordinator and Instructor

neumann.chew@ntu.edu.sg