

### Discussion Board Information

- There will be online discussions throughout the semester.
- You are required to post something before you can see what the other students posted. Once you have posted and unlocked the discussion (due by Wednesday end of day), come back to the discussion forum and read your classmates' responses. You should leave a reply to at least one students' post. Your answers are due by Friday end of day.
- Remember that the quality of what you submit is more important than the quantity and you should be sure to include answers that incorporate and refer information from the lectures, readings, and films when applicable.
- With that said, your initial post should be approximately 4-6 sentences using correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Your responses to others should be courteous and respectful.
- Please post any questions you may have about individual assignments to the Course Questions and Answers discussion forum.

### Online Discussion Rubric

Discussion Posts	Criteria	Grade
Thoughtful/Insightful	Post goes beyond simply answering the question prompt; attempts to stimulate further thought and discussion	A+/A-
Substantial	Post provides most of the content required by the prompt question but doesn't require further analysis of the subject	B+/B-
Superficial	Post provide obvious information without a further analysis of the concept; lacks depth of knowledge or reasoning; post show minimum effort (e.g. "I agree with Tom")	C+/C-
Incorrect	Post doesn't accurately address prompt	C-/D
No submission by deadline	Post not submitted	F

**Netiquette:** I expect you to maintain an online environment conducive to learning. Ensure that your email messages, discussion forum postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Online class discussion can be productive only in a climate of respect for the opinions and beliefs of all. A healthy exchange about issues may include disagreement about ideas but it must not demean the character or background of the individuals holding those ideas.

The following are prohibited and will result in a grade of “F” for any related assignments:

- making offensive remarks in e-mail or the discussion board
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online
- spamming
- hacking
- using UMass Boston or Blackboard e-mail or discussion forums for commercial purposes
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications)
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type