

# OMSE 531: Software Requirements Engineering

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## On-line Discussions

Each week there will be a topic opened for discussion. The discussion will open after the lecture and will close Sunday evening at 10:00.

The instructor may post questions in the discussion group as the discussion proceeds. Many of these questions are open-ended and almost all will involve matters of opinion. In short, your opinion counts.

Since these questions will attempt to stimulate discussion, and your answers will be your opinions, there is no notion of “correct” or “incorrect” answers. In fact, in the course of the discussion, you may feel free to change your opinion if you wish.

Therefore you will be rated on your contribution to the group. Each student will be expected to contribute at least one response to one of the instructor’s questions in the discussion group.

Your response (or opinion) is expected to show insight to one (or more) of the topic’s questions as posed by the instructor, or responses from one of the other students.

Posing a question to the group that shows insight and steers the discussion in a new direction is considered a significant contribution as well.

You will be rated on the sum total of your contribution to the weekly discussion at the close of the discussion. You will be rated as follows:

- **10 points** will be awarded for discussion contributions consisting of cogent commentary on the topic, along with comments or responses to other student’s contributions.
- **8 points** will be awarded if the sum total of your week’s contributions consists of a single significant contribution to a question or topic.
- **6 points** will be awarded if the sum total of your week’s contributions that are minimal and do not add weight to the overall discussion.

The best strategy is, of course, to contribute well thought out responses to other students postings, as well as the instructor’s questions.

**Expressing disagreement is necessary for a good discussion and is encouraged.  
However, do so with respect and consideration.**