

## Discussion participation

The forum section does not contribute directly to grading, although participation in **2 posts** (you must post once and respond to another person's post once) is mandatory. Enrolling in a discussion section will help you to become more confident with linking concepts and interpreting results, which **eventually benefit you in the final exam.**

*Every week, I will post a provocative question that challenges your understanding and that requires a justified answer. Actively participate. This means that you must be focused and involved, offering your comments, questions, feedback, and answers to succeed in this class.*

**You are required to participate in 2 discussions in the forum.** You must post once and respond to another person's post once.

Discussion guidelines:

- Use names when you refer to something that someone else has written
- Include the section of the content in your discussion title along with your topic (e.g. V1 and Perception: Can blind people benefit from a larger V1?)
- *Italicize disagreement*, **bold a new argument**, and underline agreement
- Respect each other. We do not tolerate hateful language.

### 1.1.1. What is a good question?

To make the best use of lectures and other courses, it's important to be able to ask good questions. We are always told that there are no stupid questions but often enough we think that our own questions are stupid.

- A good question is one that elicits an answer that gives you a better understanding.
- Questions can e.g. be about:
  - Missing definitions: Are there terms being used that you do not know?
  - A cognitive dissonance that you experienced while working with the lecture material: Are there (perhaps: seeming) contradictions within the material, between the materials and your knowledge or beliefs?
  - A (seeming) gap in the line of argument: Are there conclusions and generalizations that you cannot comprehend?
  - Confusing example: Are there examples given that you cannot bring together with the concepts explained before?
  - Missing information: Did you expect something that was not in the materials?
  - Curiosity: Are you curious about learning more about some aspects?
- Aspects of a good question:
  - You make it easy for the person being asked to understand your problem e.g. by paraphrasing what kind of answer might help you.
  - You make it easy for the person being asked to understand what you already know or looked at e.g. by paraphrasing what you think you understood.

### 1.1.2. How do I write a good post?

- Respond to what someone else has written: refer back to what others have already written in their responses.
  - Use words/phrases such as, “this/that” and “I/you/he/she/it,” as in “You said that . . .” or “What makes you think that?” (Nystrand et al., 1997).
- Ask questions that invite multiple, complex interpretations. This will spark more meaningful discussions.
- Have fun! The forum is there to encourage participation and spark interest. While it is an academic discussion, do not feel the need to use formal language. Feel free to use informal language and emojis 🗣️ 🤖