Guidelines for Classroom Discussions

- There are 6 class discussions during the term; 2/unit plus an introductory one devoted to introductions. All but the first introductory one will be worth 15 points.
- You will be assigned randomly to 6 person discussion groups.
- The goal is to think about and discuss your thoughts on topics related to one of the readings. The specific question or topic is stated on D2L.
- The general directions state:
  - Each participant must compose an initial 200-400(max) word response to this question based on course readings and post under D2L Discussions by the deadline posted on the calendar (due: start of class before discussion).
  - Review your group's statements and list (to dropbox) two short discussion questions that make sense based on your group’s interests. Please hold off submitting your list until you read all your group's responses (due: 2 hours before the in-class discussion).
  - Following a class discussion of this topic, you must return to the D2L Discussion to elaborate on one of the classroom questions (posted after the classroom discussion) or summarize the topic based on the classroom discussion by the deadline posted on the calendar (due: start of next class).
- Thus, three substantive posts per discussion (your initial statement, your list of discussion topics and your topic summary or question elaboration) is considered a minimum level of participation. To receive the best grade, your list and summary must reflect a true understanding of the issue and your group’s perspectives.
- A substantive post makes a meaningful contribution to the discussion topic. A good initial post should relate to the readings or lecture in a meaningful way. Subsequent posts can comment on other students’ posts or, better, synthesis a group of posts to draw broad comparisons or conclusions related to the discussion topic.
- It is not possible to make-up a missed discussion. The posting of inappropriate material will result in a zero and possible referral to a Dean.
- Please review the “Discussion Rubric” for more details.

Deadlines

All important dates and deadlines are included in the syllabus. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all deadlines.

- **Initial Statement:** An initial 200-400 word statement is due on the group discussion forum by the start of the class before the discussion per the course syllabus. Mark the subject heading “Statement on ...” to capture the topic and or position you are discussing. Note that your name is automatically shown to the right so need not be in your subject.
- **Discussion Questions:** List of two short discussion questions are due 2 hours before the in-class discussion. Upload these questions in a WORD formatted file to the proper dropbox.
- **Follow-up:** Summarize the class discussion or elaborate on one of the class discussion questions by the start of class following an in-class discussion. Reply to your group’s D2L discussion using a subject heading “Summary or Elaboration on ...”