

General Expectations:

I expect you to participate in all of the discussion forums in this course. At the very least, I want you to post an original thought and a response to somebody else's thought for each discussion. Doing this will earn a "B". Doing more will earn an "A". How much more? I don't grade by counting up your posts, but for an A, you really need to be part of the discussion more than just by submitting one or two solo thoughts, and more than just responding with a remark such as, "I agree!"

Grading Rubric:

All the discussions are worth 10 points (instead of 100 like the problem sets) because that makes my life easier and it seems a bit silly to try to distinguish between, say, a 92 and a 93 in a subjective measure of "quality of participation." In the case where we break into groups and then rejoin with the whole class, your participation within your group discussion and your participation within the larger class discussion are each worth 10 points.

Grading participation in a discussion is always subjective but I try my best. Here is what I look for:

- 1. Promptness and Initiative** The A student consistently initiates and/or responds to postings daily during the discussion period and demonstrates good self-initiative.
- 2. Delivery of Post** The A student consistently makes grammatically correct posts with rare misspellings.
- 3. Relevance of Post** The A student consistently posts topics related to discussion topic; cites additional references related to topic
- 4. Expression Within the Post** The A student expresses opinions and ideas in a clear and concise manner with obvious connection to topic
- 5. Contribution to the Learning Community** The A student is aware of needs of community; frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic.

My numerical grading scale (i.e. what range of scores equals an "A" or a "B", etc.) can be found in the course syllabus.