6.041x Spring 2016 - Discussion forum guidelines

1 Discussion forum overview

The course provides an online discussion forum for you to communicate with the course team and other students. You may access the forum through the "Discussion" tab at the top of the page, as well as through many embedded discussions within each unit. We recommend using the embedded discussions within each unit to discuss topics related to a specific unit's materials, whether it's lectures, solved problems, or problem set problems. Please see the guidelines below for more information on how to use these embedded discussions.

For other more general discussions, you may use the "Discussion" tab at the top of the page. When creating a new post, **please choose one of the following categories that best describes your post**:

- **Introductions:** introduce yourself to your fellow students and find out more about them!

- **Course Feedback:** let the course team know how you are finding the course, what you think works well, and what you would like to see improved

- **Technical Problems:** let the course team know about any technical issues you are dealing with (e.g., playing videos, entering answers, etc.)

- **General:** other general discussions

2 Discussion forum guidelines

The discussion forum is the main way for you to communicate with the course team and other students. We hope it contributes to a sense of community and serves as a useful resource for your learning. Here are some guidelines to help you successfully navigate and interact on the forum:

- **Use discussion while working through the material.** Beginning with Unit 2, each lecture will contain an embedded discussion located at the bottom of the first clip of that lecture sequence (the lecture overview clip), where you should discuss anything related to that lecture's video clips or exercises. Click "Show Discussion" to see all discussions associated with the lecture, and click "New Post" to post a new topic. In addition, every solved problem and problem set problem will have its own embedded discussion located at the bottom of their respective pages. As with the lecture discussions, click "Show Discussion" and "New Post" to see and create discussion topics related to that specific problem. We recommend that you use these in-page discussion boards to help focus discussions on specific topics.

- **Use informative topic titles and tags.** To make it easier to identify relevant discussion topics, please use informative titles and tags when creating a new discussion topic. We suggest using titles or tags that are as informative as possible, e.g., "lecture X, exercise Y on topic W, clarify part Z"

- **Be very specific.** Provide as much information as possible about what you need help for: Which part of what problem or video? Why do you not understand the question? Do you need help understanding a particular concept? What have you tried doing so far? Use a descriptive title to your post. This will attract the attention of other students having the same issue.

- **Observe the honor code.** We encourage collaboration and help, but please do not ask for nor post problem solutions.

- **Upvote good posts.** This applies to questions and answers. Click on the green plus button so that good posts can be found more easily.

- **Search before asking.** The forum can become hard to use if there are too many threads, and good discussions happen when people participate in the same thread. Before asking a question, use the search feature by clicking on the magnifying glass on the left-hand side.

- **Write clearly.** We know that English is a second language for many of you but correct grammar will help others to respond. Avoid ALL CAPS, abbrv of wrds (abbreviating words), and excessive punctuation!!!!