Using Piazza for MA 16010

This summer we will be using Piazza discussion forum to facilitate the course. Please use the following information to help use the discussion forum to its fullest potential.

Enrolling in Piazza

You can click on the Piazza link in Blackboard or go to the Piazza home page (https://piazza.com/). If you do not already have a Piazza account, you can create one easily for free. You can search the courses at Purdue and self-enroll in MA16010 Summer 2015. You must use your Purdue email to register for the course.

Turning Off Emails from Piazza

You will probably want to adjust your email preferences in Piazza. If you do not manually change the email settings, Piazza will email you every time a change is made to any post that you either create or follow.

In the upper right corner, you will see a cog icon next to your name. Click on that and select Account/Email Settings. In the second box down, select Edit Email Notifications. Change the settings as to how often (if ever) you would like email notifications.

Posting Questions

Piazza uses folders to organize posts. When posting a question, tag it in the appropriate folder. There are four types of folders built in this course, homework, lectures (for questions about the contents), LON-CAPA technical issues and exams.

When posting questions on Piazza, be as detailed as possible. Simply stating How do you do #3 in HW1 does not provide any detail. Explain what the problem entails and what you have tried to do to solve the problem. The same is true about any topic in which you might need more details. The more detailed the post, the faster and more explicit the response will be.

When posting questions about the homework, always put the question number in the title so that posts are more organized and easy to find.

Look Before Posting

From my experience, if one person has a question about a problem or topic, several other people would have the same question. Before creating a new thread in the discussion board, look to see if someone else has posted the same question. Piazza gives you the option to mark a question as "Good Question," which indicates that other people have the same question. If your question is related but slightly different, you can add to the thread by creating an "Follow Up" below the original post. When there are multiple posts about the same question, usually only the first post gets answered.

Answering Questions

You are highly encouraged to answer questions posted by other students. This enriches the discussion and typically questions are answered more quickly. When one explains the contents/problems to others, it often reinforces his/her grasp of, and in some cases, deepens his/her understanding of the material. When responding to questions, especially those about homework problems, do not simply give the answer. Try and show the steps that you used so that those reading the post can understand how to do the problems. This is more important than simply getting the correct answer.

Be Respectful

We are all in this together. Be respectful in your posts.