

Using Piazza for MA 16010

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

Enrolling in and Accessing Piazza

Click on the Piazza link in Brightspace.

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, lessons, exams and other.

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 homework number and the question number in the title so that posts are more organized and easy to find. For example, HW 1 Q3.

Do NOT wait until the last minute to post a question.

Look Before Posting

From our 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. If your question is related but slightly different, you can add to the thread by creating a follow-up below the original post. When the instructor answers a follow-up question, they will mark the follow-up question as resolved, even if the question is not fully resolved yet. When you continue to follow up on the question, you need to mark the question as unresolved (a radio button) and that is how the instructors will know that they need to answer the question again.

Answering Questions

You are highly encouraged to answer questions posted by other students. This enriches the discussion and questions can be answered more quickly. When one explains the concept/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.

Be Respectful

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