Using the Blackboard Discussion Board
The Discussion Board

• The Discussion Board is a tool on Blackboard that allows you to have discussions with your students asynchronously (not in real time).

• Some basic vocabulary:
  • Discussion Board – the page where all of the class discussions can be found.
  • Discussion Forum – a specific discussion on the discussion board.
  • Discussion Thread – a conversation on a discussion board.
Why Use the Discussion Board

• It is a place you can use to build/ maintain your class community.
• You can post information for all students instead of emailing them.
• It prevents you from having to answer the same question repeatedly from a variety of students.
• Students can post comments and questions to you and each other.
• You can add attachments for students (handouts, readings, assignments) to your comments.
• Your students can add attachments (writing assignments, homework) to their comments.
On the left side menu, click **Discussions**.
This is the **Discussion Board**.

A forum is a discussion space organized around a specific topic.
You can create a discussion forum here.

Give the forum a name.

Describe what this forum is for.

Determine if the forum is available to students to post comments and for how long.

Click submit.
You will see this success banner.

This is the discussion forum you just created.

Click the title to begin posting comments.
Here you can post a comment. Blackboard calls the first comment, a thread. Click **Create Thread**.
The interface is the same to create a thread.

Write the subject.

Write your comment.

Add any attachments from your computer.

Click submit.
You will see this success banner.

Here is your comment. You can read comments by clicking the title under **THREAD**.
Here is your comment. Student comments will be displayed similarly.

You and your students can respond to a comment by clicking **Reply**.
The Discussion Board

• The Discussion Board is a good solution to manage conversations online.
• If you plan to use the Discussion board, you may want to develop a communication plan to inform the students about how often and how quickly you will respond to comments.
• You may also what to provide students with guidance about your expectations for commenting.
• Finally, a Discussion Forum for students to ask questions, express confusion or a lack of understanding is an effective way to make sure everyone is on track.