Discussion Forum Guidelines

The weekly discussion forums are designed not only as a formal learning tool, but also as a means for student learners to interact with and learn from each other. The goal is to learn, and sometimes that involves disagreeing with the opinion of another student. Discussing alternative viewpoints is an excellent way to learn. *Please remember to remain professional and polite when interacting with other students. No personal insults or attacks on another student will be tolerated.*

In each discussion forum throughout the course, you will be required to make two (2) new substantive posts and one (1) substantive reply to one of your classmate’s. However, you will not be able to view or reply to other classmate’s posts until AFTER you have submitted at least one of your new posts to the forum. You are encouraged to make additional postings to further our class discussion. The professor will read each post; although, you may not receive a reply for each post. If you have any questions regarding the discussion questions please contact the professor.

*All postings must be substantive.* Comments like "I agree," "Good point," etc. are not substantive and will not be given any points. You are also encouraged to post thoughtful questions about the reading and take the discussion off on separate "threads." *Please pay close attention to the due dates posted in the Course Schedule.* "Speed posting"—a lot of posts within a short period time near the discussion deadline—is discouraged and may not be graded or will receive substantial deductions in the points awarded for each post.

**Suggested Topics**

**Learning Unit 2:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the *previous* Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political and economic development of the ancient world.
- Discuss some of the contributions to the development of Western Civilization made by the Egyptians, Sumerians, Persians, Phoenicians, Hebrews and other ancient peoples.

**Learning Unit 3:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the *previous* Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- What were some of the Greek contributions to the development of Western Civilization?
  - Mycenaean and Cretan cultures
  - The Greek Dark Age
  - Greek religion
  - Greek philosophy / philosophers
  - Greek literature
  - Greek politics and government
  - The Persian Wars
  - The Peloponnesian War
  - Alexander the Great
  - The Hellenistic Age
  - Greek science and mathematics

**Learning Unit 4:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the *previous* Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.
• What were some of the Roman contributions to the development of Western Civilization?
  - The origins of Roman civilization
  - The impact of the Greeks on Roman civilization
  - The Roman Republic
  - The conquest of the Italian peninsula
  - The Punic Wars
  - Julius Caesar
  - The rise of Christianity
  - The political transformation from a republic to an empire
  - The expansion of the Roman Empire
  - The decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire
  - Roman law
  - Roman religion
  - Roman culture

**Learning Unit 5:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the *previous* Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

• Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of these civilizations.
  - The Reforms of Diocletian and Constantine
  - Division of the Empire
  - The Huns
  - The Fall of the Western Roman Empire
  - The Germanic Invasions
  - Germanic Kingdoms
  - Germanic Society
  - The Development and Spread of Christianity
  - The Byzantine Empire
  - The Rise and Expansion of Islam

**Learning Unit 6:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the *previous* Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

• Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of these civilizations.
  - Agricultural Developments
  - Life of the Peasantry
  - The Aristocracy
  - Eleanor of Aquitaine
  - Chivalry
  - The Expansion of Trade and the Growth of Cities
  - Intellectual and Artistic Developments
  - Rise of Universities
  - Scholasticism
  - Literature and Architecture
  - The Norman Conquest of England
  - The Development of the English Monarchy
  - The Growth of the French Kingdom
  - The Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula
  - The Crusades
  - Reform of the Catholic Church
  - New Religious Orders
  - New Kingdoms of Eastern Europe
  - The Mongols
**Learning Unit 7:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the previous Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of European Civilization.
  - The Little Ice Age
  - The Great Famine
  - The Bubonic Plague
  - The Economic and Social Impact of the Plague
  - The Hundred Years’ War
  - The War of the Roses
  - The Holy Roman Empire
  - The States of Italy
  - Problems Confronting the Papacy and the Avignon Exile
  - Vernacular Literature
  - Technological Innovations

**Learning Unit 8:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the previous Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of European Civilization.
  - The Renaissance
  - Jacob Burkhardt
  - Economic Recovery
  - The Hanseatic League
  - Technological Innovations
  - Social Changes
  - The Peasantry
  - The Nobility
  - The Italian City-States
  - Machiavelli
  - Humanism
  - Civic Humanism
  - Education
  - Italian Renaissance Artists
  - Northern European Artists
  - European Governments during the Renaissance
  - The Spanish Inquisition
  - The Papacy during the Renaissance

**Learning Unit 9:** In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the previous Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of European Civilization.
  - Christian Humanism
  - Erasmus
  - Thomas More
  - Church Corruption
  - Martin Luther
  - The Spread of Lutheranism
  - The Empire of Charles V
  - Politics and Religious Wars
  - The Radical Reformation
  - The Reformation in England
  - John Calvin
  - The Catholic Counter Reformation
  - The Council of Trent
  - Phillip II
  - Elizabeth I
Learning Unit 10: In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the previous Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of European Civilization.

- John Mandeville
- The Polos
- The Portuguese Explorers
- Columbus
- John Cabot
- Cabral
- Vespucci
- Magellan
- The Treaty of Tordesillas
- Spanish Conquest of the New World
- The Slave Trade
- Dutch and English in Southeast Asia
- Competition for control of India
- Contact with China and Japan
- Competition in the Americas
- The Impact of European Expansion
- Mercantilism
- Globalization

Learning Unit 11: In addition to the suggested discussion topics below, you may discuss anything from the previous Learning Unit, and any other relevant information you would like to contribute.

- Discuss the social, cultural, political, and economic development of European Civilization.

- Witchcraft
- Moscow and the Rise of the Russian Empire
- Peter the Great
- Denmark and Sweden
- The Ottoman Empire
- The Growth of a Constitutional Monarchy in England
- The English Civil War
- Hobbes and Locke
- European Art and Culture
- The Thirty Years’ War
- Peasant Revolts
- French Absolutism
- Louis XIV
- Versailles
- The Development of Prussia
- The Austrian Empire
- Competition for control of Italy
- Restoration and the Glorious Revolution

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