

Communication guidelines

We hope this course provides you with a supportive environment, where you can discuss course materials and ask questions or answer other students' questions. The **Askalot** tool provides a good opportunity to make learning more interactive and to develop a sense of community. To ensure optimal use of **Askalot**, there are a number of guidelines.

Search before asking

Unless you are one of the first people posting, you will often find that any question you have has already been asked and answered by others before you. So before posting your question, first search for a similar topic.

Be specific

Give your thread a clear name, and try to ask clear questions. Be specific about which video or quiz question (and what part of that video or question) you are referring to, what is unclear and what have you tried already.

Be clear

Before posting, re-read your question to ensure that there are no obvious spelling or grammar errors that may alter your meaning. We understand that many participants do not speak English as a first language, so please don't let difficulties with English grammar rules prevent you from interacting! Likewise, if you respond to other people's questions, please don't comment on spelling and grammar – unless they affect your ability to understand the question. Also, try to avoid excessive abbr. of wrds (abbreviations of words) as these are not universally understood. ALL CAPS COMMENTS are considered shouting, and excessive use of punctuation is equally emphatic!!!!!!

Good post? Upvote it!

Click on the green "plus" button to ensure good posts/comments can be found more easily.

Notify staff of bugs/errors

We have tried our best to make this course as good as possible, yet mistakes can always be made. Should you encounter a mistake, please start your post with [STAFF] (the only time caps are allowed) so we can find your posts easily. Only use this for courseware errors.

Be polite

We are an online community with vastly different backgrounds, so please acknowledge one another's good work, keep the vibe positive and let others enjoy their learning!

Advertising, data collection and unsanctioned research

Please note that all unsolicited messages that contain advertising will be removed. We want to protect this space for education, and do not welcome advertisers. Likewise, requests for other participants to complete surveys or research that have not been checked by the course staff will be deleted.

If you are a researcher from another university or a similar organization, we are usually happy to assist, but would appreciate it if you first contact us directly to ask permission.

Observe the Honor Code

We encourage collaboration and learning communities, but please avoid asking for and/or posting answers to assignments. Those caught cheating may have their accounts disabled and their progress erased. For more information, see the collaboration guidelines.

Good luck!