

⚠️ **Scheduled Service Outage Notice: From Saturday, January 31st at 10:00 PM EST through Sunday, February 1st at Noon EST, many Wharton and University systems will be unavailable or degraded due to scheduled ISC datacenter maintenance. For more information, see ISC Datacenter Maintenance.** ⚠️

Ed Discussion for Students

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As of May 2022, Ed Discussion is available to all Penn faculty, staff, and students. A Canvas integration is available for all courses taught through [Penn Canvas](#).

Ed Discussion is an asynchronous discussion tool that provides a platform for students and members of the teaching team to interact through threaded conversation. Students can answer one another's questions, work on and run code together, embed videos, annotate images, and share documents. They can also like one another's posts, post anonymously, and receive instructor feedback all in one place.

In this article, you will learn more about the student experience in Ed Discussion. For information on utilizing Ed Discussion in your course as an instructor, [view the guide linked here](#).

Before You Start

You will need the following before you can complete this task:

- You will need access to [Canvas](#).
- If you are using Ed Discussion in a course that does not use Canvas, you may log in with your Penn email address at edstem.org/us/login.

Navigating Ed

From the student perspective, Ed Discussion has a clear set of color-coded categories, a searchable discussion area, and a big blue button for posting new threads. As with any tool, it is important to consult your professor or other teaching team members to best understand how this will be used in class. Some faculty include a pinned thread containing these instructions, so you can check for this, as well. The categories you see on the lefthand side are customizable and will differ from course to course, so keep this in mind when learning the functionality:

ed CIS550 Spring 2022 – Discussion

Start a new thread

Filter by status of post

Open EdDiscussion

Stay notified about posts

Profile settings

COURSES

- CIS550 Spring 2022 353
- edward_sandbox 1
- zAS-CTL-EDST-001 B2... 41

Drafts 18

Scheduled

CATEGORIES

- Announcements
- Homeworks
- Midterm1
- Midterm2
- Project
- Quizzes
- Exercises
- Other

Filter

Welcome to CIS550 #14

E Edward Tao STAFF 3 months ago in Announcements

Hello everyone and welcome to CIS550!

We are excited that you are here! To help you better navigate this course, we would like to share a few tips with you -

How to get started - If you haven't gone through the "Course Introduction" and "Recourses" sections on Coursera, please do it as soon as possible. We have covered a lot of details there to help you succeed in this course. Please note all the assignment deadlines on Coursera are using U.S Eastern time.

How to get help - We understand this learning journey could be challenging. You are not alone, there are multiple ways to get help from our TA team. While interacting with your peers, TAs, and professor, please be polite and respectful.

Ed Discussion - We will be using Ed Discussion for course announcements, FAQs, or sharing your thoughts and expertise to help your peers. You need to check out Ed Discussion throughout the week. If you have any questions, feel free to post them on Ed Discussion and our TA team will respond to your questions within 24 hours. More instructions about Ed Discussion.

TA Office Hours - You can get 1:1 help from our TA Office hours within 15 minutes limit. Please check out the TA OH schedule on the 550 Google Calendar, Note these OH schedules are subject to change with short notice. More instructions on how to join OHQ.

Instructor OH/Weekly Recitations - Instructor Office hours and Weekly Recitations will be hosted twice a week. Recording of the weekly recitation will be posted on the Coursera. Instructor Office hours are open (not private) but will be recorded.

Recitations are on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 11 AM eastern.
 Instructor Open Office Hours on Thursdays from 9 AM to 10 AM eastern
 Instructor Open Office Hours on Thursdays from 4 PM to 5 PM eastern
 Recitation on Saturdays from 2 PM to 3 PM eastern

You can see the schedule here - CIS550 Google Calendar

15 others online

Edward Tao, Penn Engineering, via <https://online.seas.upenn.edu/student-knowledge-base/ed-discussion/>

Creating a New Thread

When creating a new thread as a student, you will see the option to pose a question or post. Note that the grayed-out item indicates it is deselected, while the colored item (shown below in pink) indicates a selection. In this example, the student has selected to pose a question:

Question

Post

Title

► Similar Threads

Category [Week 1](#) [Posts](#) [Announcements](#) [Questions](#)

⚠ Select a category.

Private
Visible to you and staff only

Anonymous
Hide your name from students

Post

Anything you post will need to include a title, category, and sub-category, if applicable. Once you begin typing your title, you can also see a drop-down for similar threads if you would like to reference an earlier post. To link to an earlier thread within the new post, since all threads are numbered, you can type the hashtag (#) sign followed by the thread's unique numeric value:

#30

#30 – Poll: Your Feedback on the ...
[Poll - View on Ed] [Poll - View on Ed]

In order to start drafting the question or post, you will need to first select a category. Once the selection is made, you will see the tool's rich content editor. The question or post can be private to just you and the teaching team, or you can share with the class while making it anonymous to other students:

The screenshot shows the 'New Question' interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Question' (selected) and 'Post'. Below the tabs, the 'Title' field contains 'Reading Question'. Under the 'Category' section, 'Week 1' and 'Posts' are listed, while 'Announcements' and 'Questions' are highlighted. The main area is a rich text editor with a toolbar containing various formatting options. The text area contains the message 'I have a question about today's reading...'. At the bottom, there are two checkboxes: 'Private' (Visible to you and staff only) and 'Anonymous' (Hide your name from students). A blue 'Post' button is located at the bottom right.

In the example below, an anonymous user posted a question about the homework under the Problem Sets category. In response, Ishtar answered the question by posting a guide which Cady found to be "very helpful." Also visible in the screenshot, students have the ability to "heart" questions, answers, posts, and comments they love, and they can also "star" and "watch" questions or posts, making it easier to filter the content in the discussion area:

Search

Filter ▾

Visual Analysis Assignment Sample

General Taylor Kahny STAFF 1mth 8 (7 new)

Welcome!

General Taylor Kahny STAFF 1mth

10 Jul 2022

Question about homework

Problem Sets Anonymous 1mth 2

Question about homework #3

Anonymous
Last mo. in Problem Sets

UNSTAR WATCHING 4 VIEWS

Heart I need help with #3...

Comment ...

1 Answer

I Ishtar Test286
6 min. ago

Heart I found the following guide helpful for answering Question 3:

1

howtocreateaworldclassrecog.pdf

Comment ...

Add comment

C Cady Test280 now
Very helpful!
Reply Edit Delete ...

Your Answer



Rich Content Editor

When you **draft a new thread** or comment on someone else's content, you will edit the post through the rich content editor. The editor provides tools for formatting text, inserting media, LaTeX, and other programming language snippets. In addition, you can directly create formatted text and mathematical equations by typing in Markdown and LaTeX syntax:

Format text

Hyperlink text

Create a list

Upload an image

Embed a video

Upload documents

Write an equation

Write code

Insert web snippets

Annotate images

Paragraph

Run

1 print ("Hello, world!")

Hello, world!

Private

Visible to you and staff only

Post

Submit your post

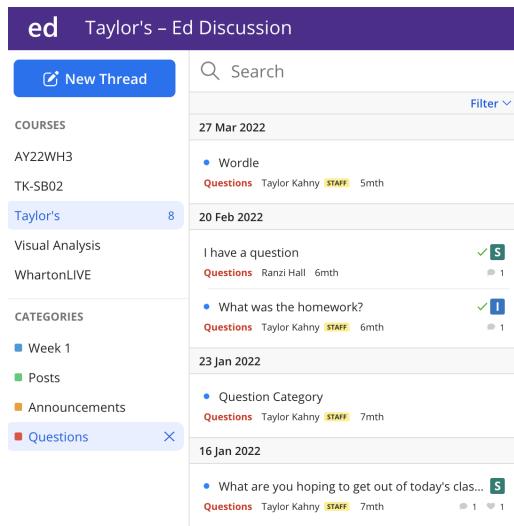
Ed Discussion allows users to:

- Upload images
- Embed videos
- Write math equations
- Upload documents
- Embed runnable codes
- Annotate images

$$u(x, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi kt}} \int_0^{\infty} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{(x-y)^2}{4kt}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{(x+y)^2}{4kt}\right) \right] g(y), dy$$

Categories

When **toggling among categories** within Ed Discussion, the chosen category's threads will appear underneath the search bar within the discussion area as shown below:



The screenshot shows the Ed Discussion interface with the 'Questions' category selected. The sidebar on the left shows 'Taylor's' has 8 threads. The main area shows threads for 'Wordle', 'Visual Analysis', 'WhartonLIVE', 'Week 1', 'Posts', 'Announcements', and 'Questions'. Each thread includes a date, a title, the author, and a small icon representing the category.

Each thread in the category is organized by date with the category, author, and related icons indicated on each separate post. Your instructors may have as many or as little categories as they choose.

Important Key for Understanding Thread Icons

- Threads with a blue dot  are **unread**. These are threads that you have not seen.
- Threads with a green tick  are **questions that have been resolved**. This means that the question has already been answered.
- Threads with a purple pin  have been **pinned** and will be kept at the top of the discussion list to increase visibility and encourage ongoing discussions. Pinned threads are generally reserved for announcements or important information. Only instructors can choose which threads to pin.
- Threads with a blue ribbon  have been **endorsed** by course instructors. This is usually done by instructors to distinguish high-quality content.
- Threads with a heart signify **agreement**.  Hearts are private and do not reveal identities.
- Threads with a star are **bookmarked**  to refer back to later. Stars are private to the individual.
- Threads with an eye icon selected  are those in which you are **subscribed** to receive thread activity email notifications.
- Threads with the "S" icon  indicate a **student has answered** a question thread.
- Threads with the "I" icon  indicate an **instructor has answered** a question thread.

Filtering

In terms of organizing your view as a student, Ed Discussion allows for many **filtering options**. You can filter by unread items; the latest replies; threads that are unanswered (for questions only), unresolved (for questions only), or endorsed; items you have set to watch or have starred; your private content; any public content; posts from the teaching team; and threads only created by you:

Search

Filter

- ✓ All
- Unread**
- New Replies
- Unanswered
- Unresolved
- Endorsed
- Watching
- Starred
- Private
- Public
- Staff
- Mine

Searching

In order to quickly find posts within the discussion area, you can use the search bar to extract key words from threads. In the example below, the word "question" appears in five different posts within this particular course's Ed Discussion site:

question

5 results

Most relevant

FILTER

- All**
- Unread
- New Replies
- Unanswered
- Unresolved
- Endorsed
- Watching
- Starred
- Private
- Public
- Staff
- Mine

CATEGORY

- Week 1
- Posts
- Announcements
- Questions

DATE

From

To

R I have a question #32
I have a **question**
Questions Ranzi Hall 6 mo. ago

T Wordle #38
The wordle today is...
Questions Taylor Kahny STAFF 5 mo. ago

T Question Category #29
Question
Questions Taylor Kahny STAFF 7 mo. ago

T What was the homework? #31
What was the homework?
Questions Taylor Kahny STAFF 6 mo. ago

T What are you hoping to get out of today's class session? #26
Please respond with a topic from the syllabus.
Questions Taylor Kahny STAFF 7 mo. ago

To drill down the search even further, you can select one of the filtered options, a specific category, or even a date range.

Notifications

In the upper right corner of your screen, next to the home dashboard, you will see a bell icon indicating notifications. The notifications are organized by date with a section for "All" notifications and "Unread" notifications. There is also an icon enabling you to mark all notifications as "Read." Similar to the color scheme when posting a new thread, any item that is unread appears blue, while the notifications you have already read are grayed out as shown below:

The screenshot shows a list of notifications and messages. At the top, there are icons for a message, a home, a bell (with a red box around it), and a profile. Below that, a 'All' button is highlighted in blue, and an 'Unread' button is in red. The notifications are organized by date:

- 7 Jul 2022: Heinrich Test285 and Desdemona Test281 replied to your comment in [Visual Analysis Assignment Sample](#). WhartonLIVE • last mo.
- 31 May 2022: Taylor Kahn posted an announcement [Welcome!](#). WhartonLIVE • last mo.
- 21 Mar 2022: Taylor Kahn posted an announcement [Welcome!](#). TK-SB02 • 5 mo. ago
- 4 Feb 2022: Fern Test283, Ernest Test282 and Desdemona Test281 replied to your comment in [Written Visual Analysis & Peer Feedback Thread Example](#). Visual Analysis • 6 mo. ago
- 1 Feb 2022: Ursula Test298 and Ernest Test282 replied to a comment by Valkyrie Test299 in [Team 2 Submission](#). Visual Analysis • 6 mo. ago
- 1 Feb 2022: Ursula Test298, Valkyrie Test299 and Ernest Test282 commented on your post [Team 2 Submission](#). Visual Analysis • 6 mo. ago

Please note that you will not receive Ed Discussion notifications via Canvas directly, as this is an LTI tool existing as a separate application.

To customize your notification settings, see the [Profile Settings](#) section below.

Profile Settings

In Ed Discussion, there are ways to further customize your user experience in the [Settings](#) tab under your account profile:

The screenshot shows the 'ed Settings' page. The top navigation bar has icons for a message, a home, a bell, and a profile. The 'ed' logo is on the left. The main content area has a sidebar with the following options:

- Account** (highlighted in blue)
- Notifications
- Appearance
- Language & Region
- Tell a Friend
- My Courses
- My Discussions

The main content area shows the 'Profile' section for 'Cady Test280' (cadytest280@whacware.33mail.com). It includes a profile picture, the name 'Cady Test280', the email 'cadytest280@whacware.33mail.com', and a 'PRIMARY' label. The 'Emails' section states: 'You will only receive emails from Ed at your primary email address.' It also mentions that additional email addresses can be associated for password recovery. The right sidebar shows the user's name 'Cady Test280' and email 'cadytest280@whacware.33mail.com', and links for 'Settings', 'Help', and 'Log Out'.

From the Account section pictured above, check to make sure your primary email address is set to your Penn email address. This way, you will receive all Ed Discussion notification emails at this address.

For added security measures, you can also set a password or enable Two-Factor Authentication for your account.

To edit your notification settings, you can toggle to the [Notifications](#) tab shown below:

Desktop Notifications

[Enable Desktop Notifications](#)

Notifications

Appearance

Language & Region

Tell a Friend

My Courses

My Discussions

New Thread Digests

Be alerted via email about new threads in the discussion you have not read.

Choose how frequently you would like to receive these emails, or turn it off completely.

Instant ▾

▶ Per-course digest settings

Save

Notification Emails

Reply via Email
Reply to notifications, comments and new threads using your email client. 

Email me when there is activity in a thread I am watching
Get an email when someone posts a reply in a thread you're watching. 

Email me when someone replies to my thread
Get an email when someone posts a direct reply to your thread. 

Email me when someone replies to my comment
Get an email when someone posts a direct reply to your comment. 

Email me when someone mentions me
Get an email when someone @mentions you in the discussion. 

You can enable desktop notifications, choose how frequently you receive emails from Ed Discussion or turn this off entirely, and you can toggle various options for the email notifications you would like to receive.

To receive automatic emails from Ed Discussion directly to your @upenn email address, the notifications should be changed to "Instant" rather than the default option:

New Thread Digests

Be alerted via email about new threads in the discussion you have not read

Choose how frequently you would like to receive these emails, or turn it off completely



Under the **Appearance** tab, Ed Discussion enables you to change from Light to Dark mode, even providing an option to sync the particular mode with your operating system's settings. In addition, you can change the threaded list style to full (default), compact, or ultra compact.

Account

Notifications

Appearance

Language & Region

Tell a Friend

My Courses

My Discussions

Theme

Sync with OS
Automatically switch between light and dark themes based on your system settings.

Light 

Thread List Style

Full
This is the default style.

Compact
Use less padding and display student and instructor answered icons.

Ultra Compact
Display only minimal information.

When is the assessment due?    
Assessments Cady Test280 1w  

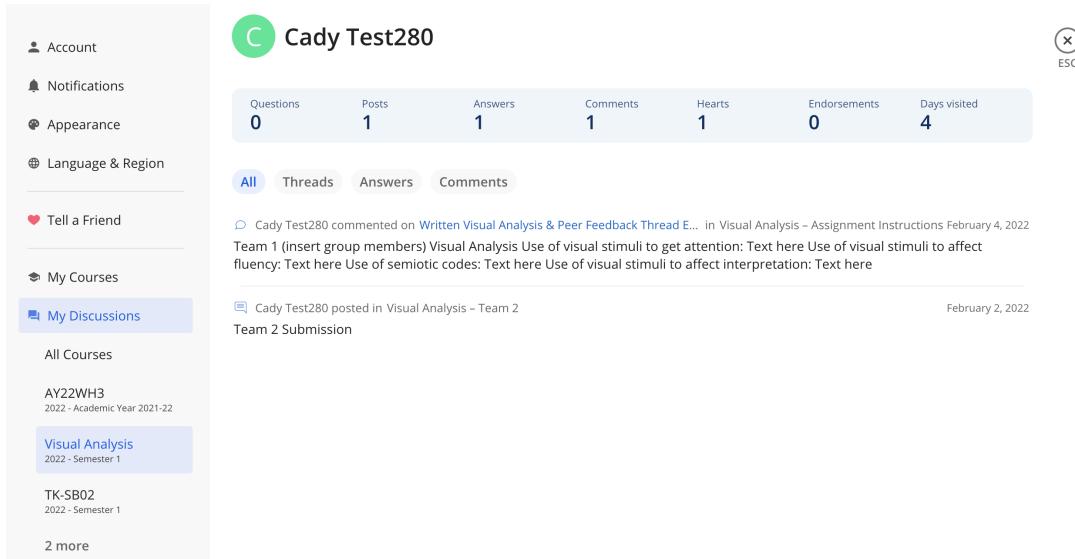
• The lecture tomorrow is cancelled
Lectures Cady Test280 1w  

Pending Approval
 Homework solutions
Homework Cady Test280 2w 

End of semester megathread
General Cady Test280 4w  

The **Language & Region** and **My Courses** tabs enable you to alter the language and time zone and view all courses you are enrolled in that utilize Ed Discussion. Under **My Discussions**, you can drill down to specific threads, answers, and comments you have made on your course discussion boards, making it easy to return to a

conversation without having to search through all user threads:



The screenshot shows a user profile for 'Cady Test280'. The profile includes a green circular icon with a white 'C', the name 'Cady Test280', and a 'Logout (X) ESC' button. Below the profile are statistics: Questions (0), Posts (1), Answers (1), Comments (1), Hearts (1), Endorsements (0), and Days visited (4). Below the stats are tabs for 'All', 'Threads', 'Answers', and 'Comments', with 'All' being the active tab. The feed shows a comment from Cady Test280 on a thread: 'Written Visual Analysis & Peer Feedback Thread E... in Visual Analysis – Assignment Instructions February 4, 2022 Team 1 (insert group members) Visual Analysis Use of visual stimuli to get attention: Text here Use of visual stimuli to affect fluency: Text here Use of semiotic codes: Text here Use of visual stimuli to affect interpretation: Text here'. Below this is a post from Cady Test280: 'Cady Test280 posted in Visual Analysis – Team 2 Team 2 Submission' on February 2, 2022. On the left sidebar, there are links for Account, Notifications, Appearance, Language & Region, Tell a Friend, My Courses, and My Discussions (which is selected). Under 'My Courses', there are sections for AY22WH3 (2022 - Academic Year 2021-22), Visual Analysis (2022 - Semester 1), and TK-SB02 (2022 - Semester 1). A '2 more' link is also present.

Using Ed on a Mobile Device

For those who wish to post discussions and respond on a mobile device, it is recommended to add Ed to the phone's homescreen for easy access:

For **iOS**, visit edstem.org in Safari and tap **Share>Add to Home Screen**.

For **Android**, visit edstem.org in Chrome, tap the **menu icon** (3 dots in upper right corner), and select **Add to Home Screen**.

Questions?

If you need more assistance, please contact courseware@wharton.upenn.edu for support.