Class Discussion Forums

Each week I will post a question on the Moodle site. The question can be accessed in the block for the week by clicking on the link for the forum (denoted by the two-head icon). Each question takes an important issue from the week’s work and asks you to think about it. The question is what we might call an important and normative one—that is, the question is designed to make you think about how things ought to be. Please think about the question and to each one you must, so as to be eligible for full credit, produce at least one thoughtful and considered direct answer that is about 150 words long. Because the discussion is ongoing between you, me, and fellow students, you can always contribute more than that. You can get additional points (if your initial contribution does not get you the maximum) for contributions that are thoughtful, deliberative, and civil. The discussion will close at 5 p.m. on Friday.

Your contributions will be graded at the end of the semester. The discussions are worth 10% of your final grade.

As is the case in my regular classroom:

- I will not tolerate personal attacks, profanity, or remarks that violate university policy on speech
- The discussion must be related to the topic at hand

The discussion questions are (by week number):

1. Is affirmative action fair?
2. Are Americans too ideological?
3. Should the Constitution be amended?
4. How can we get more Americans to vote?
5. Should we strengthen our political parties?
6. Is the federal government responsive enough to the needs of citizens?
7. Should the terms of members of Congress be limited?
8. Should we abolish the Electoral College?
9. Should federal judges be elected?
10. Should we reform our tax system?