**Be clear and specific in instructions and due dates**

In my online course, we have weekly Discussion Board assignments, and this is an example of one assignment, which I make available every M morning. I repeat the instructions for how to post every time I create an Discussion Board assignment.

##

## Discussion Forum Week 5 – Free Speech & Milo Yiannopolous

Hello everyone!

In this week’s **Discussion Forum**, we will talk about civil liberties and free speech on college campuses more specifically.

Your assignment is to read the “Room for Debate: When a Generation Becomes Less Tolerant of Free Speech” discussion in the New York Times (2015) that is available here: <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/11/02/when-a-generation-becomes-less-tolerant-of-free-speech>. Then please post a response (of no more than 250 words) to the following hypothetical situation (i.e., this did not really happen at Baruch) and question:

*Concerned for public safety in the wake of letters and rallies, Baruch College administrators refuse to allow right-wing writer Milo Yiannopolous to speak on campus, arguing that they want to prevent a possibly dangerous situation like that happened at UC Berkeley in 2017.  Milo is a former senior editor at Breitbart News whose comments are often laced with racism, sexism, transphobia, and other forms of bigotry.  The student groups who worked hard to organize Milo’s visit and speaking engagement are very upset.  They argue that Baruch’s decision to prevent Milo from speaking on campus is a violation of free speech, and they plan to sue in court in order to allow the event to take place.*

**Who do you agree with, the Baruch officials or the student group leaders?  Should Milo be allowed to speak on campus or not?  Why do you say so?**

Helpful links with some background information:

* <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/01/us/uc-berkeley-milo-yiannopoulos-protest.html?_r=0>
* <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/02/us/university-california-berkeley-free-speech-milo-yiannopoulos.html>
* <http://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/2/20/14673036/milo-yiannopoulos-cpac-pedophilia-tape>

How to add your posting to the Discussion Forum: (1) click “DF Week 5: Free Speech & Milo Yiannopolous”; (2) click “Create Thread,” (3) in the “Subject” line, note what your posting is about (create a short attention-grabbing headline that describes the content of your post – no need to include your name in the subject line), (4) enter your posting in the “Message” box, (5) click “Submit,” and (6) use “Reply” to respond to the posting of at least one of your classmates.

**Your posting is due TH 9/26, by 11:59PM EST; your response to the posting of at least one other student is due SUN 9/29, by 11:59PM EST**.  Late postings and responses will not get credit.

**In your posting and response(s), you need to incorporate insights from lecture L7 (especially the free speech court cases discussed there), the assigned readings/videos for this week, and the “Room for Debate” article. If you don't do this, you'll see this reflected in your score.** If you do not follow instructions, you will also see this reflected in your score.

Pay attention to your writing (spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, etc.) and run the spell check before you post.  You won’t be able to make changes after you have posted.

I look forward to reading your answers!

~ Prof. de Graauw (Els.deGraauw@baruch.cuny.edu)