

Edge Hill University

STUDENT GUIDE TO USING BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARDS


This guide covers using the Discussion Board tool accessed through a web browser. The mobile app version looks different, but the concepts are the same.

Discussion Board Tool

From the standard template the Discussion Board tool is accessed from 'Home Hub', 'Module Information and Support', 'Full Discussion Board including all forums'.

When you enter the Discussion Board tool you will see the list of Forums which have been created. Each Forum is usually focused on a certain topic.

Clicking on a blue title will take you into a Forum.

Discussion Board		
<i>The main discussion board page displays a list of forums within your course. A forum is where you can discuss a topic or a group of related topics. Within a forum, you'll find threads, forums to encourage conversation about topics relevant to your course. More Help</i>		
FORUM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL POSTS
Getting to know each other 	Use this space to get to know each other. Tell us about yourself, and how you developed your love of biscuits. I hear that some students are here, not because of a love of biscuits but because they think that there is money in it! I find this hard to believe, but if that is you let me know as I want to do research on you.	87
Seminar 1: Biscuits in Soviet Times	Please use this topic area for the discussion activity in Week One.	3
Assignment Discussion	This forum is for conversations regarding the assignment.	34

Forums

Forums contain a number of conversations, which also known as Threads, on a topic.

Forum: Getting to know each other

In a thread, you can view the post and information about it, such as the author and posted date. All replies appear on the same page with the parent post. [More Help](#)

Create Thread **Subscribe**

Thread Actions ▾ Collect

	DATE ▾	THREAD	AUTHOR	STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/>	20/11/12 15:50	A brand new thread!	Anonymous	Published
<input type="checkbox"/>	06/09/12 08:52	Help!	Anonymous	Published
<input type="checkbox"/>	11/10/10 11:33	Hello everybody	Anonymous	Published

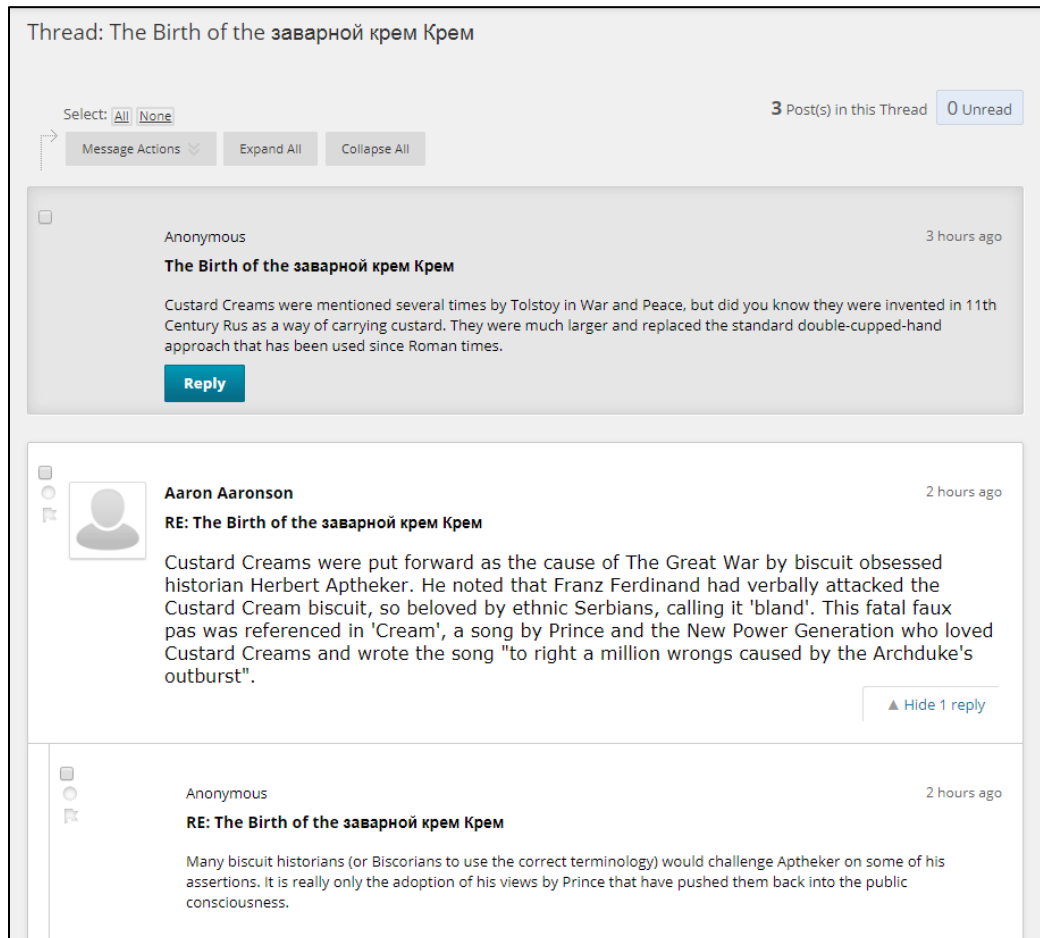
Thread Actions ▾ Collect

Clicking on a blue Thread title will show you the messages within the Thread. If you have permissions to create your own Threads you will see the 'Create Thread' button.

'Subscribe' is a useful service that will email you when there are any posts to the forum. If you don't see the 'Subscribe' button ask your tutor to enable it. The emails will be sent to your Edge Hill University email address.

Threads

In a Thread you will see the Posts in the conversation. You can use buttons such as 'Collapse All' to manage how the Posts are displayed.



The screenshot shows a forum thread interface. At the top, the thread title is "Thread: The Birth of the заварной крем Крем". Below the title, there are controls: "Select: All None", "3 Post(s) in this Thread", and "0 Unread". A "Message Actions" dropdown menu is open, showing "Expand All" and "Collapse All" options. The thread contains three posts:

- Post 1:** Anonymous, 3 hours ago. Title: "The Birth of the заварной крем Крем". Content: "Custard Creams were mentioned several times by Tolstoy in War and Peace, but did you know they were invented in 11th Century Rus as a way of carrying custard. They were much larger and replaced the standard double-cupped-hand approach that has been used since Roman times." A "Reply" button is visible below the text.
- Post 2:** Aaron Aaronson, 2 hours ago. Title: "RE: The Birth of the заварной крем Крем". Content: "Custard Creams were put forward as the cause of The Great War by biscuit obsessed historian Herbert Aptheker. He noted that Franz Ferdinand had verbally attacked the Custard Cream biscuit, so beloved by ethnic Serbians, calling it 'bland'. This fatal faux pas was referenced in 'Cream', a song by Prince and the New Power Generation who loved Custard Creams and wrote the song 'to right a million wrongs caused by the Archduke's outburst'." A "Hide 1 reply" button is visible below the text.
- Post 3:** Anonymous, 2 hours ago. Title: "RE: The Birth of the заварной крем Крем". Content: "Many biscuit historians (or Biscorians to use the correct terminology) would challenge Aptheker on some of his assertions. It is really only the adoption of his views by Prince that have pushed them back into the public consciousness."

You can reply to a Post by hovering your cursor over it and selecting 'Reply' or 'Quote' to include the message in your own reply. Have a look at the [Discussion Board Netiquette guide](#) for advice on communicating in a positive way.