

1 Introduction

Reddit is a platform for sharing all types of content, but it lends itself especially well to the type of discussion and collaboration we are interested in fostering in this course. Below is a brief tutorial to introduce you to Reddit, in particular how to use the forum and post new content.

2 Login and get started

First, in the email you receive you should have been provided with the format of your username and password. If you are already a Reddit user and would like to have your account added to the forum, please just let Andrew Moodie know.

As a reminder, your username is first initial (lowercase), full last name (lowercase), underscore, ESCI (e.g. amoodie_ESCI) and the password is 12345678. You can change the password in the settings of Reddit, if you want to. If you have two initials (e.g. Cin-Ty, no hyphen) we used both initials, if you have a hyphen in your last name it *is* included, and we used full names whenever we knew them (e.g. Gerald Dickens).

Visit www.reddit.com/r/RiceESCI555/, the course forum page, to start. You will see a notice that the site is private, so you will need to login in order to access it. In the upper right corner click on “sign in” (Figure 1).

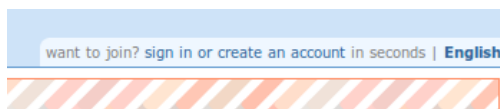


Figure 1: “sign in” link location context.

Enter your account information provided in the email, check remember me (if you are on a public computer do not check this box), and click “SIGN IN”. You are now logged into the course forum and can post and share content.

3 Post a question

If, after class, or perhaps during class, you want to post a question or a discussion topic, visit the course forum page (www.reddit.com/r/RiceESCI555/) and click on “Submit a question or disc. topic” in the upper right corner (Figure 2).

Enter the question you wish to ask in the “title” box. A short-ish title is appropriate for here, you can expand on it below in the “text” box if you wish, however, this is never required.

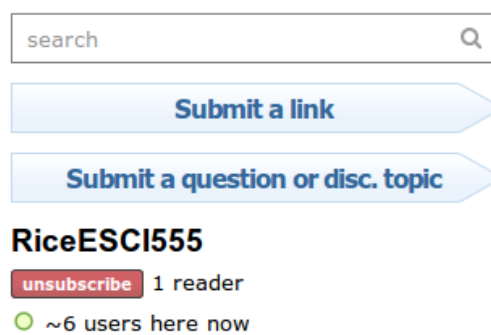


Figure 2: Links to submit content location context.

Within the text box, you can include links to other content or do some formatting (bullet points, italics, etc.); to view the formatting help, click “formatting help” in the lower right of the “text” box. Leave the subreddit selection to “RiceESCI555”, and “send replies to my inbox” checked.

3.1 Someone replied to your question

If someone replies to your question, you will receive a notification (only within the Reddit site) that they have. In the upper right corner of your browser window you will see your username, some numbers, and then a little icon that looks like mail (Figure 3). This is your inbox. Here you can see other’s replies to your questions, comments, or other content submissions. The mail will be red when you have new mail.

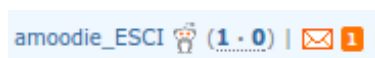


Figure 3: Mail inbox location context. Image shown with one new mail. Mail icon turns grey when no new mail has been received.

4 Reply to a post topic

Now, if you visit the site and see an interesting question and want to reply to it, what should you do? Click on the title of the question you want to answer, and it will take you to a new page. Here, you will see any additional text or clarification the question author added, as well as any other responses.

If you want to respond yourself, simply type your reply into the text box (you can use all the same formatting in posting a question) and click save. Your post will be added for all the other course participants to see. This is called a “top-level comment”.

If you want to reply to someone else's already posted comment to the question, simply click on the small gray word "reply" below their comment, and enter the desired reply into the text box. Click save to submit the reply.

5 Post other content

If you want to post other content, like links to papers or articles, you will click on "Submit a link" just above the question submission link described in Section 3 (Figure 2). Enter a descriptive title, paste the URL into the "url" box, and click submit (NOT "suggest title". Again, leave the subreddit selection to "RiceESCI555", and "send replies to my inbox" checked.

6 Voting on questions

Reddit allows users to upvote (or downvote) content they like (or don't like). This makes it more prominent on other users pages. The idea is that good content (questions, discussions, etc.) gets filtered to the top.

On the left side of every post, and every comment, and every reply, you will see two arrows pointing up and down (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Example of what upvote and downvote icons look like. The shown post has 1 upvote.

Click on the up-pointing one to "upvote" if you like the content, and the down-pointing one to "downvote" if you do not like it. Or don't do either, Reddit will automatically filter newer content towards to top by some top-secret proprietary algorithm. However, if you do upvote and downvote, we can all see good content and at the end of the semester view which questions sparked the most interest.

7 Mobile devices

As far as I know, Reddit does not have an official mobile app (Android, iPhone, or iPad), but there are *many* available apps. Just search your app store, login, and navigate to the forum page to use. Of course, you can always use your mobile browser instead of an app if you wish.

8 Try it out!

If you have a question to post, go ahead and try it! Otherwise login and view the example question Andrew Moodie posted, and make a test reply, so that you can get a chance to see what Reddit looks like and how it works. Feel free to ask Andrew Moodie any questions during class or by email any time.