

CS1111 Piazza Tutorial for Fall 2020

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Piazza

Piazza is a platform that allows communication between students and instructors through messages that are grouped by type. They can be public or private messages, and can serve as long threads. It is very similar to Slack.

The Basic UI

The screenshot displays the Piazza interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes a class selection dropdown (CSCI 1111, highlighted in red), a 'Q & A' section (highlighted in green), and a 'Resources' section (highlighted in blue). Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'LIVE Q&A', 'Drafts', and various homework assignments (hw1-hw5, lab, exam, logistics, other). A 'New Post' button is highlighted in yellow. The main content area shows a post titled 'Weird symbols in template' with a code snippet: `assert(cry.getPlainText().equals("It ain't over till it's over!"));`. The post also includes a section for 'followup discussions' and a 'Start a new followup discussion' button. At the bottom, there is a summary bar showing 'Average Response Time: 1.4 hr' and 'Pablo Frank Bolton answered Error in printList in 2...'. The footer contains copyright information and links for Privacy Policy, Copyright Policy, Terms of Use, Blog, and Report Bug!

The basic areas in the Piazza UI are displayed on the top:

- Class selection (in red): One must select the class for which this particular Piazza forum is devoted (CSCI 1111 in this case).
- Q & A section (in green): This is the default message view of Piazza. You can also get here by pressing the Piazza button on the top left.
- Resources (in Blue): This is where the staff Office Hours times and locations, as well as any shared digital resources can be found.

- New Message button (in yellow): Press this to make a new message. The Search bar on the right allows finding old messages and the links above the button also allow filtering the search.
- Message list (on the left pane): They are sorted by date but can be pinned on top by the instructor to denote importance. Messages by the instructional team are marked with *instr*.
- Message content and editing in the center pane: you can mark messages as Public or Private, and you may choose to post anonymously (this will be available unless it is abused).
- Thread response options in the bottom of the center pane: Most problems should be discussed in the same thread.

Discussion Threads

We prefer discussions to happen in public threads and responses to refer to the correct threads (like when you respond to posts in facebook). We will open threads for each assignment, under which the discussion should continue.

In general, if you have a question, you should:

1. Search the assignment thread.
2. Read the assignment thread to see if it already contains the answer you need.
3. If your specific problem or issue has been asked but not responded, you can upvote the question or add comments in a subthread.
4. If your specific problem is not present, add it as a question in a followup discussion rather than as a response.

Asking Questions

Public: You should write a clear and succinct question with no code or very general bits of code. It should have enough information that the TAs and or your classmates can help. In general, these are conceptual or clarification questions. The only code we allow is the one shared by all (like templates or examples seen or used in class).

Private: You should also write a clear and succinct question. Here, you can add code (there are several ways to do it with fancy highlighting). You can use this for debugging questions related to your particular code.

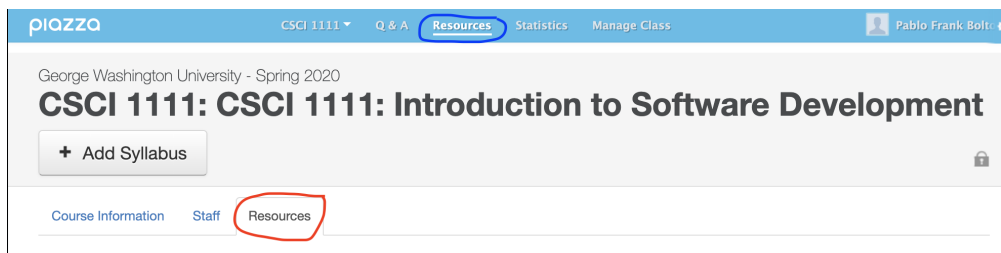
Staff Information

The screenshot shows the Piazza interface for the course "CSCI 1111: Introduction to Software Development" at George Washington University - Spring 2020. The page has a blue header with navigation links: "piozza", "CSCI 1111", "Q & A", "Resources" (circled in red), "Statistics", and "Manage Class". The user profile "Pablo Frank Bolt" is visible in the top right. Below the header, the course title is displayed, along with a "+ Add Syllabus" button and a lock icon. A pink box with the text "THIS IS AN EXAMPLE NOT ACTUAL TIMES" is overlaid on the page. Below the course title, there are tabs for "Course Information", "Staff" (circled in red), and "Resources". The "Staff" tab is active, showing a list of staff members with checkboxes and an "Edit" button. The staff list includes Pablo Frank Bolton and Zekai. To the right of the staff list, there is an "Office Hours" section with a green circle around it. The "Office Hours" section contains two entries: one for Pablo Frank Bolton (Tuesdays 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, SEH 4655) and one for Zekai (Wednesdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm, SEH 4th floor couches).

To see who are your instructors and TAs, and when and where you can find them outside of class (Office Hours):

- go to the *Resources* section in the top bar and
- select the *Staff* subtab (in red)
- You can see all the information for your instructors in this section

Digital Materials



To see any materials that have been shared (tutorials, homework assignments, readings, code, etc):

- go to the *Resources* section in the top bar and
- select the *Resources* subtab (in red)
- There are several sections in the bottom, like:
 - Lecture Notes,
 - General Resources,
 - etc

Response Time

We try to get to your questions within the same day but you should know that if we do not, you should wait, since sending more questions or an email will only make response times longer. If we take more than a day to respond, it is a very good idea to go to office hours.