



Academic Interaction by **Dr. Henry Khiat, UniSIM**

Interaction with your classmates and instructors can be useful in your academic journey in UniSIM. For a start, interaction with your instructors can help you in your learning as you can get advice or guidance from them on many learning related issues. In terms of interacting with your instructors, you can consider doing the following:

- a) Learn from your instructors. They are the expert in the respective courses they teach. Let them know that you value their expertise. They would be willing to share their knowledge with you.
- b) Obtain information from your instructors about the learning standards in the courses. They know the essentials in the learning and assessment of the courses they teach. They can provide you with a lot of insights that can make your learning easier and more effective.
- c) Let your instructors know who you are. In large classes, it is hard for the instructors to remember all the names and faces of their students. Remind them of your name when you are talking to them.
- d) Learn from the feedback your instructors have given you on your assignments or during seminars. Where possible, discuss the feedback in more detail with them. This will enable you to find out how best you can improve on your future assignments or learning process.

Collaboration with classmates in study is important in making efficient use of the limited study time you have. You can consider collaborating with your classmates in the ways below:

- a) Exchange notes with one another to fill up knowledge gaps during the seminar.
- b) Teach others who have missed the seminar. When you teach your classmates, you are actually reinforcing what you have learnt.
- c) Share with one another your professional experiences related to the contents studied in the course.
- d) Lend a listening ear to, and encourage, others who have difficulties in learning.
- e) Start a face-to-face study group with the learning goals, rules and details of meeting set and agreed by all members.



- f) Start an online study group through Facebook, email or MSN messaging with learning goals and rules. It can be asynchronous or synchronous.
- g) Form a project team for group based assignments.

You have to be realistic that it is sometimes difficult to interact with your instructors or collaborate with your peers due to time constraint, space constraint, personality differences or any other reason. In this case, try to make full use of whatever learning materials that are provided to you in the course.

References

Race, P. (1992). *500 Tips for Students*. Oxford: Blackwell.