Byzantine Online

Code of Conduct

As an Eastern Catholic educational organization, we are committed to allowing freedom of expression that includes maintaining a safe online space for people with opposing views to express themselves.

Like the real world, the people who participate in our online courses are diverse -- and their views on the Church, faith and human rights, politics and many other topics reflect that diversity. What we all share is the desire to talk seriously about issues that matter in light of our mandate to “teach them all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28.20).

That being said, everyone who contributes to these conversations should be able to express their views and beliefs in a safe environment, without feeling attacked. In order to foster a safe space for intelligent and respectful dialogue, everyone who participates in our online forums must agree to and abide by the following Code of Conduct:

Debate is encouraged, but it must remain civil and respectful.

We do not tolerate disrespect, discourtesy, vulgarity, or threats of violence on our online forums.

This means that Byzantine Online reserves the right to remove all posts and comments that:

1. Contain threatening, abusive, harassing, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, hateful, or otherwise objectionable content.

2. Disrupt dialogue. We do not allow users to repeatedly post the same information to our online forums in a deliberate attempt to "spam", clog or otherwise inhibit open discussion.
3. Engage in ad hominem attacks (i.e. attack a fellow user, rather than the content of the comment itself), stalking or otherwise harassing others on our forums.

4. Use the discussion forum or chat options to advertise or otherwise solicit support for your personal, business or commercial ventures.

5. Post any videos, URLs, links, or websites without prior approval from the instructor.

6. Harass, bully, threaten or cause discomfort for other participants by presenting one-sided or radical political or religious viewpoints.

7. Show extreme insensitivity to multiple political and religious viewpoints by referencing offensive or notorious persons, controversial political figures, or cultural tragedies with no thought of Christian charity.

8. Disrupt online discussions by posting multiple messages within a short time span, spamming, prolonging off-topic posts, using ALL CAPS or any other means of monopolizing the discussion.

9. Violate existing copyright, patent, trademark or other proprietary rights through plagiarism, or the use of another’s thoughts and ideas without proper attribution.

10. Behave in a manner that is inappropriate for Byzantine Online and the wider Byzantine Catholic community by referencing subjects entirely unrelated to Byzantine Online. This includes (but is not limited to) topics of an explicitly political nature (“I endorse Candidate X and you should too!”), a personal nature (“Everyone needs to like my Facebook page!”) or of a not-even-close-to-Byzantine Online-related nature (“I love cat videos!”).

**Please note:** If a user violates our Code of Conduct, Byzantine Online reserves the right to ban them from further participation in any of our online forums and possible dismissal from our online programs if such behavior continues.