

# Participation

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The following five criteria will be used to determine your participation grade.

- $X$ : the frequency with which you attend class.
  - $X = \frac{A}{T}$ , where  $A$  is the number of classes you attend and  $T$  is the total number of classes for the semester.
- $Y$ : how well you participate during class.
  - This is the hardest quantity to define. In general,  $Y$  ranges from 0 to 1. If you speak at least once during each class,  $Y = 1$ . If you speak less than once per class, it could still be the case that  $Y = 1$ . That depends on how difficult it is for you to speak up in class (shy people shouldn't be punished just for being shy), how helpful and on-point your contributions are, and so on.
  - Things that lower your  $Y$  score include—but are not limited to—being on your phone, sleeping, using your computer for anything other than notes and course readings, and skipping class.
- $Z$ : how well you work with others in group activities.
  - $Z$  ranges from 0 to 1. A score of  $Z = 0$  means that you did not talk with the other members of your group, or that you did not contribute at all to the work that your group produced, or that you dominated discussion to the point where it was difficult for others to speak, and so on. A score of  $Z = 1$  means that you were a reasonable participant in your group's activities.
- $M$ : whether or not you meet the mandatory requirement of attending office hours at least once during the semester.
  - If you attended office hours at least once,  $M = 1$ . Otherwise,  $M = 0$ .
- $N$ : whether or not you conduct yourself appropriately during philosophical conversations.
  - $N$  ranges from 0 to 1. A score of  $N = 0$  means that you were mean, nasty, rude, domineering, and so on. A score of  $N = 1$  means that you were a reasonable human being.

Your participation grade will be determined by the formula below.

$$\text{Participation grade} = 20 \cdot (X + Y + Z + M + N) \quad (1)$$

As mentioned on the syllabus, participation is worth up to 100 points. So if you get perfect scores on  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$ ,  $M$ , and  $N$ —that is, if you get a 1 for each of those quantities—then your preliminary participation grade would be a perfect 100.

Sometimes, a student's circumstances require that their participation grade be computed in a manner differently from the one just described. So I reserve the right to change individual students' participation grades, if the circumstances warrant.