

Introduction to Data Science: Participation Grades

Overview:

A major component of your grade for this semester (30%) measures your participation in the course meetings. The goal is to hold everyone accountable to being present and engaged in our all too short and infrequent class meetings. You may be familiar with participation grades from other courses that are primarily discussion based. These often focus on the frequency and quality of public comments made during class. Participation in *Introduction to Data Science* works differently. While questions and comments are encouraged, there simply is not enough time or space to have everyone share their work within a typical class meeting.

As an alternative model, students are asked to fill out a short form (linked to on the course website) at the end of each class meeting. In addition to two short questions, space is included in the form to include either a free response question or to upload a file. During class, one or more elements from the day's notebook will be flagged to be uploaded to this form. This may, for example, be a block of code for a specific question or the output from a graphics command. The form must be filled out immediately at the end of class, and the assignment may differ between the two course sections.

General attendance, including arriving on time and being ready to share your screen or answer a question when called on, are also important elements of the participation grade.

Rubric:

Below are descriptions of what is expected for a participation grade of an **A** and a grade of **C**. Other intermediate grades will be given for students who fall somewhere in-between these two categories. Failing to fulfill the requirements of a C will result in an **F** for participation.

Grade of A: The material submitted in the class forms is typically correct and answers the questions as posed in the notebook. For questions of an open-ended nature, the solutions illustrate a desire to think critically and creatively about the data and material. For this grade, a student should rarely be late, miss class, be unprepared to answer a question or share their screen, or fail to submit a class form. Generally expected to miss no more than two class meetings or class forms.

Grade of C: Submitted lab forms generally show an attempt to complete the assigned questions. Behaviors such as arriving late, missing class, failing to submit a form, or being unprepared to screen share or answer a question should not be habitual. Generally expected to miss no more than four class meetings or class forms.

Note on Absences:

As described above, all students are allowed two “free” absences or failures to submit a form before it will impact a participation grade. These are usually sufficient to accommodate most unexpected circumstances, such as computer issues, illness, or one-off unavoidable conflicts. There is no need to email about or explain these first two class absences. If a situation arises where you need to miss additional classes, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to find a suitable solution in order for it to not impact your participation grade.

Students are welcome to attend either course section.