

# 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.
  - $Y$  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  $Y = 1$ , depending how difficult it is for you to speak in class (shy people shouldn't be punished just for being shy), how 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 coordinate with me.
  - $Z$  ranges from 0 to 1. A lower  $Z$  score means that you did not communicate with me well, whenever communication was needed. For instance, suppose that you set up a meeting with me, but fail to show. If you do not let me know why beforehand, and afterwards you also do not explain yourself, then your  $Z$  score will be lowered. A higher  $Z$  score means that when coordination was needed, you did a good job of it.
- $N$ : 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.

$$\text{Participation grade} = 25 \cdot (X + Y + Z + N)$$

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