

We've defined participation as the following:

- **Coming prepared** to recitation (doing the reading, turning in the pre-reading question etc.)
- **Paying attention** when the instructor is speaking (you can't participate in a discussion if you don't know what it's about)
- Participating (verbally) in **pair-/group-work**
- **Volunteering to answer questions** when the instructor asks them. (Note that you may not get called on each time. That's okay; our class sizes prevent that. Statistically, if you're raising your hand frequently, you'll get called on with some frequency.)
- **Responding to other student's comments** with an opinion of their own.
- **Asking good questions** in recitation (where "good" just means it's clear that you prepared for the recitation).

A - The student comes prepared to and pays attention during almost every recitation. They participate in group work whenever the opportunity presents itself. They volunteer answers to questions — from the instructor and the students — in each recitation, and ask good questions when appropriate.

B - The student comes prepared to and pays attention during almost every recitation, participates in group work when the opportunity presents itself, but does not frequently volunteer to answer or ask questions.

C - The student comes prepared to and pays attention during almost every recitation, but rarely participates in group work or volunteers to ask or answer questions.

Below C - The student is infrequently prepared, doesn't pay attention, or doesn't attend the majority of recitations.

Each of these rubrics contains the phrase "almost every recitation" for a reason. We understand that, for unforeseen circumstances, you may need to miss a recitation during the semester. Missing a single recitation will not appreciably impact your grade.¹

Missing more recitations, however, will begin to impact your grade. The easiest way to lower the impact of any absences is to be engaged in and participate fully in the recitations you do attend.

We do not break participation down into an exact formula because each recitation presents different opportunities for participation. To make up for this, in addition to releasing your participation grade in two parts (one halfway through the semester, one near the end), we will also issue preliminary participation grades for each of those parts. These preliminary grades **do not count** towards your final grade. They simply give you an idea of where you currently stand.

¹ There was much shuffling of recitations during the first two weeks of the semester; don't worry if you switched sections. We'll calculate your grade based on the day you started showing up in your correct section.

Sometimes you will see your TA keeping track of participation during class. This data is helpful in assigning your grade, but rest assured that we're also noticing your participation on days when the TA isn't tracking this data. The data is, in fact, more useful for us as we work to improve our recitations so that you get the most out of them. We want to see which activities you're engaging the most with, which activities we're not doing enough of, etc.