

LECTURE PARTICIPATION

Part of your grade this semester is going to be based on your participation during lecture (Monday and Wednesday classes). To track participation, we will be using the Top Hat student engagement system. This system allows you to use smartphones, laptops, tablets, or text-capable cell phones to contribute during class discussions. Details about registering for Top Hat are available on D2L. Many students may already have accounts from prior classes. If so, please just use that account again (if you do not remember passwords, simply use the links to receive reminders). There is no cost to use the system.

Your participation grade itself will work quite simply. It is based on lecture class participation only. While Top Hat may be used during your discussion classes, only participation during lecture will count toward your participation grade. During each class, a number of questions may be posed to all students and you will be asked to respond by using the Top Hat system. Unless otherwise noted, you will simply receive credit for participation (i.e., answering the questions). At the end of the semester, your grade will be based on the number of questions answered divided by the number of questions asked. **KEEP IN MIND THAT GRADES ARE BASED ON THE PERCENTAGE OF QUESTIONS ANSWERED, NOT PERCENTAGE OF CLASSES ATTENDED (THOUGH THERE IS AN OBVIOUS RELATIONSHIP).** Your 60 point lecture participation grade (see grading above) will be assigned as followed:

Answered 90% or more of the questions=	60 points
Answered 80%-89.9% of the questions=	54 points
Answered 70%-79.9% of the questions=	48 points
Answered 60%-69.9% of the questions=	42 points
Answered 50%-59.9% of the questions=	36 points
Answered 40%-49.9% of the questions=	30 points
Answered less than 40% of the questions=	0 points

For example, suppose I ask 47 questions during the semester and you answer 39 of those questions. You would earn 54 points since you participated in 83% of the discussions. Notice that the grades and participation are separated by roughly 10 percentage points. That is, a student who completes 90 percent of the work will still earn a perfect score. A student who completes 80 percent of the work will still earn an A (54/60) for their participation grade. Why? I recognize that some students may miss class during the semester (e.g., illness, oversleeping, or other commitments). The grades allow you to miss a certain number of courses without penalty. I do not make a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. If you miss class, you are not able to participate; the grading scheme takes into account absences. If you need to miss class for a university-sponsored event, military service, or for an extended period of time, please contact me or your discussion leader immediately.

Please note, there are two sets of questions that will not be counted in your participation grade. Prior to class starting, I will offer a question to encourage you to log into Top Hat and prepare for class to begin. On rare other occasions, I will ask questions where I request anonymous answers (I will mention when this is the case and anonymous will display on the screen). In both of these situations, contributions will not be included in your participation grade.

Warning: Top Hat questions will appear on your screen as long as you are logged into the app or website. In order to receive credit for participation, you must physically be present in the classroom. If you are absent, you are not permitted to participate from home. If you are running late and miss a question, do not attempt to answer it on the way to class. You are only able to receive credit when you are in class. I will take attendance at various points to confirm classroom presence. Any student caught participating while not in class will receive up to a 0 for the course participation grade. Repeated violation will result in academic misconduct procedures (see student code of conduct) and a possible F for the course grade.