

Section Participation Rubric

B: the baseline grade of competent but not exceptional participation.

The grade of "B" functions as a baseline grade, signifying competent but not exceptional participation. Participation is graded up or down relative to these baseline "B" criteria:

- Misses no more than two sections (barring emergencies, as explained in the section syllabus)
- Consistently stays engaged in individual, small-group, and whole-class discussions and exercises
 - Examples: not using a cell phone; not engaging in sidebars; not falling asleep.
- Consistently contributes to whole-class discussions and exercises (aim for around once per section)
 - Examples: answering review questions, raising a question during discussion.
- Substantially and thoughtfully contributes to whole-class discussions and exercises (aim for around once per week)
 - Examples: identifying an objection to a major premise of an argument we're discussing; raising several questions that invite further discussion about a given argument; uncovering a connection between the comments of multiple classmates; suggesting how someone might respond to a major objection we're discussing.
- Completes all section assignments
 - Example: first-day questionnaire.
- Follows norms of respectful and engaged participation
 - Outlined in the section syllabus.

B+: the beginnings of distinction.

A-, A, or A+: outstanding participation.

Participation above a "B" meets all of the standards for a "B" and goes beyond them, by, for example (this list is not exhaustive) the following criteria:

- Has frequent, thoughtful conversations with me during office hours
 - Examples: discussing how to improve on formalizations or papers; further exploring the course material.
- Offers contributions that are particularly original, subtle, or compelling
 - Please note that merely talking more does not meet this criterion, and in fact, would risk violating the discussion guideline of making space for others to contribute.
- Offers contributions that help to foster a vibrant and welcoming discussion environment
 - Examples: consistently using people's names; making comments that bring other people into the conversation by connecting the discussion to their ideas or interests.

B-, C+, C, C-:

Participation in this range fails to meet one or more of the standards for a "B".

D, F:

These grades are reserved for consistent absence, disengagement, or disrespect.