

Assignments

Participation (25%)

The success of the seminar will depend upon our shared responsibility to develop an active and respectful intellectual exchange. While attendance is required, it is only the first step toward meaningful participation. You are expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in lively, pointed, and collegial discussion and analysis of the week's assigned reading.

If you miss a class, you are required to submit a 500-word written review essay of the assigned reading for that particular class. A hard copy of the essay is due no later than two weeks after the missed class. To the extent possible, please notify me of your absence *in advance* via email. As a rule, you should also email me to check in following an absence.

Participation Grade Guidelines

A: This student never misses class, always completes assigned readings, and comes to class prepared to think carefully, making connections between readings and across topics. He or she is willing to take the lead in discussion periodically, posing interesting questions or taking risks by answering tough questions. He or she avoids dominating discussion, instead participating mindfully in discussion with other students, considering their ideas and responding thoughtfully and respectfully. He or she helps to create a sense of a shared conversation in the group as a whole. This student shows passion for the work of the class and is committed fully to our work while in the classroom.

AB: This student does most of what an A student does, but may be slightly deficient in one area – for instance, he or she may be a conscientious reader and thinker who tends not to listen to other students or otherwise dominates conversation instead of engaging in productive deliberation. Or, he or she may have been late to class a few times, or may have missed a reading or two.

B: This student participates often, but not consistently. He or she may attend every class and do all the readings but avoids taking the lead in discussion, instead only responding to questions or adding periodically to others' ideas. This student may participate well, **but may have missed a class and failed to submit the makeup assignment**.

BC: This student may be a frequent but superficial discussion participant. The student may let shyness keep him or her from participating as fully as he or she should. At times the student may seem not to have done the readings, though he or she usually comes prepared.

C: This student is intermittently prepared for class (**e.g., participates well but has missed two classes without submitting a makeup assignment**). He or she may have flashes of brilliance, but rarely participates beyond the occasional superficial comment.

D: This student very rarely participates, and only in superficial ways.

F: This student **has missed three classes without submitting a makeup assignment** and/or attends most classes but never participates.

Developed by Adam Nelson and Walter Stern