

Attendance Policy
English 101 MWF
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The freedom of college is often a new experience for students and it is not always handled very well. I often have students ask if they can miss a class, or leave early, or come late, etc. My answer is always a cheerful "Of course." It is a privilege for students to be in English 101 and if you don't want to be here, you are always welcome to leave. However, you should realize that **all missed class time has consequences.** I am more willing to help people who are always here. (My assumption is that these students didn't understand, and it is my job to help them. If students miss class, I assume that they don't understand something because they weren't there to hear the instructions, and I don't see why I should put extra work into explaining something because the student was absent. In other words, I have done my job, but the student has not done theirs.) If you miss class, I suggest going over what we talked about with a classmate before you ask me what we did.

Not only do you miss information when you are gone, but **if you are not in class, you are not participating, and so your participation grade will be affected.** All missed class time has consequences because, when I am calculating the participation grade, never missing a class is more impressive than missing a class or two. However, there are other ways to impress me and if you miss a couple of classes it is still very possible to receive an A for participation, but if you miss enough class, it will get to the point where you will not be able to receive an A participation grade.

If you miss more than four classes, you have not participated well enough to get an A for participation. The best you can hope for is an A-. If you miss more than five classes, the best you can get is a B+, more than six, the maximum is a B, etc.

However, showing up for every class does not guarantee an A. **You must participate.**

I realize that events happen that may force you to miss class. Nevertheless, if events conspire to force you to miss several classes, then you have a good reason why you won't get the grade you want. Unforeseen events are not a reason for me to give you the grade you desire.

If you miss a class for any reason (including signing up for the class after the start of the semester), your classmates have done work that you have not. They were in class participating and you weren't, and there is no way you can make this up. So all absences count toward your participation grade. I will also count anyone who is more than 15 min. late or leaves more than 15 min. early as having missed half a class.

Arriving late at all (or leaving early) three times counts as an absence.

Please sign below (also print your name) and return a copy once you have read this over.