

Expectations for Participation and Preparation in Recitations

What do we do in recitations?

Recitation provides an opportunity for students to work together on challenging problems that are selected to build conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. The emphasis is on learning to find, evaluate, and build confidence in problem-solving steps with an emphasis on actively working with, learning from and teaching your classmates.

Why is it important to participate in, and be prepared for, recitations?

It is important that students participate in recitations so that they can learn from each other. We know that active involvement in learning increases what is remembered, how well it is assimilated, and how the learning is used in new situations. In making statements to peers about their own thoughts on a topic, students must articulate those thoughts and also submit them to (hopefully constructive) examination by others. In listening to their peers, students hear many different ways of interpreting and applying class material, and thus are able to integrate many examples of how to use the information. Especially in a course that stresses application of material to solving problems, extensive participation in group discussions is an essential element of students' learning.

How is participation in recitations graded?

Participation in each recitation session is graded on a scale from 0 (lowest) through 2 (highest), using the criteria stated below. At the end of the semester, the grades from all recitations will be averaged to determine the overall grade for recitation.

Grade	Criteria
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present for at least 70 minutes of the scheduled time.• Actively working with your group/classmates and contributing to the discussion of the problems.• Working on the posted recitation problems.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working alone.• Listening and following the table discussion but not actively contributing.• Working on the course but not working on recitation problems.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absent• Students present for less than 50% (40 minutes) of the scheduled time will be considered absent.• Present but not working on anything associated with this course.