

## STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING CLASS PARTICIPATION IN A LANGUAGE COURSE

Class participation provides an opportunity to develop your speaking and listening skills, as well as clarify difficult concepts or exercises for the benefit of yourself and your peers. The evaluation of your class participation is **neither** a measure of simple attendance **nor** that you answer every question in class correctly—many of the issues we will confront in this course have been vexing the human mind for millennia and while instant facility would be most impressive, it is hardly expected. Moreover, learning is an experimental process and oftentimes the experiments of even the most dedicated and intellectually engaged students go temporarily astray. This evaluation will reflect, however, the **regular, careful preparation** of assigned material and the **consistent, enthusiastic attempt to share your understanding (and questions) with your peers and engage theirs in turn.**

**Students finding it difficult to participate for any reason should see me as soon as possible.**

**Participation is evaluated on a scale from A+ to C- or No Credit for unacceptable work.**

- A Outstanding Contributor:** Contributions in class are frequent and reflect exceptional preparation in nearly every class. Consistently volunteers answers and asks questions that assist the learning of the class as a whole. Class activities are always approached with enthusiasm and diligence. Attends every class session. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of the course as a whole would be diminished significantly.
- B Good Contributor:** Contributions in class are frequent and reflect thorough preparation in nearly every class. Often volunteers answers to questions. Frequently asks questions that assist the learning of the class as a whole. Class activities are almost always approached with seriousness and diligence. Attends nearly every class session. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of the course as a whole would be diminished.
- C Adequate Contributor:** Contributions in class are infrequent but reflect adequate preparation. Rarely volunteers answers to questions. Infrequently asks questions, but they are appropriate and helpful to class. Class activities are usually approached with diligence. Absent from a few class sessions. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would be diminished somewhat.
- NC Non-Participant:** This person participates little or not at all in class. Absenteeism is a problem. Hence, there is not an adequate basis for evaluation. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of discussion would not be changed.
- NC Unsatisfactory Contributor:** Contributions in class may be frequent but reflect a lack of preparation or are disruptive of the academic environment. Class activities are approached without seriousness and in such a way as to be disruptive to the student's colleagues. If this person were not a member of the class, valuable class time would be saved and the quality of the course improved.

**N.B.: NEVER refrain from making a comment** for fear of how it may effect your evaluation. This rubric evaluates participation over the span of a semester, not your response to a given question, or even your performance on a given day. 99% of the time, the only inappropriate questions or comments are those that are not made. **It is your education. Let your questions and comments be heard.**