

Class Participation Contract

Class participation will be worth 15 % of your final grade and will be graded based on a contract. Each student needs to participate actively.

Fulfilling the following requirements will earn students the full 15 points for participation.

Each instance of a failure to fulfill any one of the following expectations constitutes a breach of the participation contract. Students are entitled to one free pass for breaches of the contract. Each subsequent breach will lower your participation contract grade by one point.

- Students will show respect for the course, the instructor, themselves, their classmates, and opinions that may differ from their own.
- It is necessary for students to regularly attend every class. Legitimate reasons to miss class include required University-sponsored activities, illness, and a death in the family. Each unexcused absence constitutes a breach.
- Class will begin at the designated time; therefore, students need to arrive on time to every class. Students who are tardy (later than five minutes) more than three times will have each subsequent tardy counted as an absence.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned reading for every class.
- Students are expected to bring the text of the assigned reading with them to class in order to refer to it in discussion. (The exception to this rule is, when the only assignment from the Norton Anthology is author biographies, the Norton Anthology does not need to be brought to class.) When the text is provided through Sakai, students should bring a printout.
- Students are expected to participate in discussion, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of their classmates, as a way to better understand the literature, and to prepare for graded assignments.
- Part of participating in class activities means refraining from non-related activities, such as texting, checking email or Facebook, carrying on extraneous conversations, doing work for other classes, etc.
- To minimize distraction, this class will usually be conducted without electronic devices. Students should plan to take notes on paper and refer to print texts, and focus on listening and contributing to discussion. There are two exceptions to this rule: (1) The instructor may sometimes tell students in advance to bring and use electronic devices to a particular class session for a particular activity, in which case students should only use these devices when the instructor asks them to do so. (2) If you have a compelling reason, you may ask in advance for special permission to use an electronic device for note-taking, etc.

I, _____ (print name), agree to abide by the Class Participation Contract. I understand that if I break the contract, my class participation grade will be reduced.

Signature: _____ Date: _____