

Recitation grading criteria: Attendance and participation

Friday recitations are an important part of LING 101, because they are one of your best chances to practice new concepts from the course, discuss course topics, and get your questions answered (or help answer someone else's questions). Therefore, *attendance* and *participation* in recitations are factored into your final course grade.

1. Recitation attendance grading

Your overall recitation attendance grade for the semester will be determined by the percentage of attendance points earned out of the maximum possible (taking into account excused absences).

For students in synchronous (real-time) recitations:

- Synchronous recitations consist of a Zoom meeting scheduled by your TA at the regular class time, F 12:00-12:50 EDT (until Oct 30)/EST (from Nov 6).
- Your TA will record attendance, based on the participants list in Zoom, at a random time during the recitation period.
 - If you were attending by calling in on your phone (so that your name didn't show on Zoom), or had your Zoom connection disrupted, or otherwise have a reason to worry that your TA won't know you were there, please email your TA to explain the situation. If necessary, your TA will check Zoom participant information for the whole class meeting to confirm that you were attending.
- Each week, you will receive an attendance score of 1 (present) or 0 (absent) for that week's recitation session, for a maximum possible score of approximately 13.
- If you are not able to attend your synchronous recitation in a given week, you may contact your TA and request an asynchronous make-up option. These will be graded according to the asynchronous recitation attendance policy (see below), and must be completed by the asynchronous recitation deadline(s) for the week unless you and your TA make a special arrangement.

For students in asynchronous (self-paced) recitations:

- Asynchronous recitations consist of a series of activities to complete, using Sakai, a designated Google Doc activity, or other online resources.
- These activities will open at a particular time, typically Thursday or Friday, and be due at a particular time.
 - Opening times and deadlines will be announced by your TA each week. There may be two different deadlines for different activities in a given week.
- Each week, you will receive an attendance score of 1, 0.5, or 0 — depending on whether your recitation activities were fully, partially, or minimally complete by the deadline(s) — for a maximum score of approximately 13. Recitation activities will be graded for completeness rather than correctness for determining attendance (but see below on participation).

Excused absences from recitation

- If, in a given week, you are unable to attend or complete any recitation activities (including

any asynchronous make-up options) due to illness, internet connection issues, family emergencies, or other such situations, you may contact your TA and request an excused absence. You do not need to provide your TA with personal details; just indicate the general category of your reason (such as “health situation”, “technology/connection problems”, etc.)

- If your TA grants an excused absence, the week will not be factored into your recitation attendance grade. That is, if there are 13 recitations in the semester and you have one excused absence, your recitation grade will consist of your total attendance points divided by $(13-1) = 12$.
- If you have an excused absence, you may request access to the week’s asynchronous recitation activities for your own learning and practice. They will not be officially graded by your TA, but you may ask your TA questions about the material if you wish to check your understanding.

2. Recitation participation grading

We encourage thoughtful and productive participation by all students in all recitation activities. Linguistics is best learned by doing!

- There is no official numerical score for participation grading. Instead, TAs will keep track over the course of the semester of students with generally excellent participation, or students with generally minimal participation. When we are calculating final course grades, excellent or minimal participation will be used to make decisions about grades that are numerically close to the boundary between two grade levels.
- Excellent participation consists of some or all of the following:
 - Especially thoughtful and insightful contributions to class discussion or group problem-solving. This doesn’t mean you have to be right when you contribute to discussion or to problem-solving, but it does mean that you are thoughtfully applying concepts and analysis techniques from class, or asking clarification questions that show you are really thinking about the issues.
 - Helpful feedback or mentorship to students who don’t understand a particular concept as well as you do. Being able to explain ideas to someone else is a valuable skill to develop, and it deepens your own learning.
 - Evidence of hard work and persistence, either in recitations or in TA or instructor office hours, to master course concepts that give you some trouble at first.

If you have questions about these recitation attendance and participation policies, please contact your TA or another member of the instructor team.

3. Special note for the first two recitations (F Aug 14, F Aug 21)

- *Attendance:* Since students were still adding the course, changing recitations, and possibly moving during the first two weeks of class, we are scoring attendance as 1 for those weeks for anyone who attended synchronously on Zoom or completed the self-paced recitation activities, including extended deadlines. (Some students may also have arranged for an excused absence on one of those weeks, which we will of course honor.)
- *Participation:* We are not including the first two weeks in our participation assessment, since these participation grading criteria had not yet been posted.