

In-Class Participation

Your participation in class matters. This does not mean that you have to speak every time a question is asked or participate in the same way as everyone else. It does mean that I expect you to come prepared and take responsibility for being part of the learning that happens in the room.

During class, we will spend time discussing readings, working through questions, examining curriculum and student work, trying different teaching strategies, developing lessons, giving one another feedback, and sometimes teaching one another. Some of our most important work will happen through these experiences.

I also want you to pay attention to yourself as a learner during these activities. As we experience different approaches to teaching, think about what helped you learn, what did not, what assumptions were built into the activity, and what you might do differently with your own students. Part of learning to teach is learning to notice what is happening while teaching and learning are taking place.

Attendance

Our time together is an important part of the course. Many of the learning experiences we will engage in, including discussions, collaborative work, instructional activities, peer feedback, and teaching practice, cannot be fully reproduced outside of class.

I understand that circumstances arise that may prevent you from attending. If you need to miss class, please communicate with me as soon as you reasonably can. When you are absent, you are responsible for reviewing course materials and following up on work you missed. Specific expectations for weekly attendance and participation are described in the Assignment Descriptions section.

Preparation and Engagement

Come to class prepared to engage with the readings, materials, and questions for that week. Preparation does not mean that you need to understand or agree with everything you read before coming to class. Bring your questions, disagreements, connections, and uncertainties with you.

Our classroom should be a place where we can think together. That requires being willing to contribute your ideas while also listening carefully to the ideas and experiences of others.