Collaborative Learning Policies

Participation in Collaborative Learning can significantly improve your performance in E201. There are at least three reasons: (1) CL provides incentives for you to stay current (and avoid cramming) to learn the course material; (2) you get an extra hour of structured practice in solving economic problems each week (this benefit will diminish if you just substitute an hour of CL for an hour of your own prep time); (3) you have complete control over your CL score.

By choosing to be involved in CL, you have opted to have 7% of your E201 course grade determined by your participation in CL. There are two sources of CL credit:

(1) Timely submission of an acceptable homework (70% minimum) answers via Aplia;

(2) Participation with your group-mates in solving the CL problems, which necessarily requires attendance.

Regarding attendance, please understand the following:

(a) You must attend your session; you are not permitted to attend an alternate group. The rationale for this rule is not based on arbitrary inflexibility. Administrative constraints prevent us from keeping accurate records when CL participants attend sessions other than their own. In addition, CL groups are more effective when they have stable membership, so it is unproductive to permit people to wander in and out of CL groups.

(b) There is one no-questions-asked absence allowed. This means that you can still earn a score of 100 by missing one CL session. Since attendance and homework receive separate credit, you can actually miss two CL meetings and still receive 100, provided you submit Aplia homework for the missed sessions. You are welcome to use this “excused” absence (or not) for any reason you find compelling. But CL Leaders are not expected—nor are they permitted—to grant exceptions to this policy on an individual basis.

What about an absence from CL for (1) a religious holiday (including travel), or (2) an exam for another class? Here’s the policy:

- Some kind of documentation is required
- A student may “make-up” the attendance/participation credit for missing CL for one of the reasons cited above by writing out answers to the CL problems.
- The answers must be acceptable—not necessarily completely correct, but a higher standard of accuracy than “good-faith effort” is required.
- This “make-up” opportunity may be exercised only once during the semester.
- Aplia HW must still be handed in on time to receive credit.
(c) A score greater than 100 is possible for those who do not exercise their excused-absence option.

(d) To receive attendance credit, you must arrive on time. If you arrive after your group has begun working on CL problems, you may not receive credit.

(e) To receive attendance credit, you must participate with your small group for the entire time at each CL meeting.

A given CL group will meet 12 times during the semester on Sundays or Mondays, beginning Jan 24/25.

CL will not meet Mar 20/21 or Apr 30/May 1.

There will be 14 Aplia submission dates and 1 written homework for a total of 15 CL homework points.

A minimum score of 70% on each Aplia/homework submission is required for credit for that submission.

12 CL meetings + 15 homework submissions = 27 credit points possible for CL. Your numerical score will be calculated as a fraction of 25 and recorded as a percent score. Max score = 108. CL scores carry a weight of 7% of your course grade.

If you do not want to continue to participate in CL, you are welcome to withdraw from CL and have your final exam weighted 40% of your course grade (instead of 33%). To do so, please send a polite email note to your CL Leader before the last CL session of the semester.