

GENED 1017 Section

Katherine Irajpanah
(she/her)

Syllabus Version: 9/15/2023

Contact: kirajpanah@g.harvard.edu
Office hours: F 3:30-5pm (CGIS K)
<https://calendly.com/kirajpanah/>

Section time: F 10:30am
Section location: Lamont Library 230
Web: <https://scholar.harvard.edu/kirajpanah>

Section Overview

Section is a weekly, interactive review of course materials facilitated by a Teaching Fellow (TF). We—students and TF—work together in section to solidify course material, grapple with hard questions, and develop class community.

Expectations

I had a high school math teacher (Mr. Janken) who posted on his wall a list of five life habits. I have found these habits to be a model for professionalism and excellence. In class, I expect all of us (myself included) to practice the following habits to the best of our ability:

1. *Show up on time*: This is out of respect for your classmates and instructors. You also don't want to miss important announcements. Your assignments need to show up on time too!
2. *Do what you say you're going to do*: If you commit to a meeting with a peer or instructor, do not cancel last second or ghost us. Everyone involved ends up feeling bad.
3. *Finish what you start*: Don't give up on this class—it will be challenging at times, but please do not disappear on us. That said, sometimes we have to make hard choices and step back from our commitments—take this route only after careful consideration.
4. *Under-promise, over-deliver, communicate*: High expectations can help push us to be better, but too high of expectations can lead to perfectionism and anxiousness. Set reasonable expectations for yourself on assignments, including extensions, and communicate with the instructors so we are all on the same page.
5. *Say "please" and "thank you"*: Appreciation and consideration goes a long way. Please don't treat me like a Task Rabbit or your personal Google. Thank you!

Your Section Grade

Your section grade will reflect your presence and participation in our weekly meetings:

- A = Full participation and presence in class
- B = Partial participation and presence in class
- C = No participation but presence in class
- F = Unexplained absence

Let's dive further into what we mean by "presence" and "participation":

1. *Presence*: Attendance is imperative! You should also be at section for the full hour. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will not be considered present for the day.
 - If you are absent, you have the option to make up section with a 1-2 page memo responding to the discussion questions posted on Canvas. The memo is due no later than the beginning of the section in which you are next present. The memo should demonstrate thoughtful reflection to receive full credit.
2. *Participation*: Section requires more than attendance—it also requires you to contribute to the discussion and fully participate in any related section activities.
 - Ways to contribute to the discussion include asking questions, collaborating with peers during activities, and/or sharing your thoughts on the course material. If you are uncomfortable with any of these means of participating, please let me know, and we can brainstorm more approachable ways to participate.
 - Off-task activities, including surfing the web/social media, doing other work, watching videos, and/or playing video games, are considered forms of "anti-participation."
 - Sometimes it is difficult to fully participate each week, due to events in our personal lives, so I offer a one-time participation boost. To receive the boost, volunteer to share notes with an absent student, including me in the message.

Diversity Statement

- *Inclusion*: Section should be an environment where all students feel comfortable participating and their identities respected. Join me in remaining open to learning from different perspectives and respecting the range of lived experiences in our class.
- *Anti-racism and decolonization*: This course directly grapples with traumatic histories of political violence and racial imperialism. I intend to create space for us to critically reflect on how these legacies play out in our lives and academic studies.

Academic Accommodation

Students who need academic accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Office. To access accommodations, students will need to initiate a request. Information on this process is available here: <https://aeo.fas.harvard.edu/students>.