

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required in graduate classes. See below for Department policy:

Attendance is mandatory. A portion of your grade depends on class participation; if you aren't there, you can't participate. Additionally, the nature of the material is such that, if you miss a class, you will invariably miss something important. Moreover, the quality of class discussion for everyone hinges on engaged participation by everyone.

If you absolutely must miss a class, you must inform the instructor **before** the class to be missed, in part to determine whether this will be an **excused absence** or an **unexcused absence**. If you miss a lot of classes: be warned, you will not pass the course. Missing more than two classes will cause your grade to be lowered automatically. Do NOT schedule lessons, coachings or other things during class time.

You may want to accept non-SBU gigs or teaching opportunities, or schedule SBU lessons, rehearsals, coachings, family visits, travel, that conflict with class meetings in your academic courses. **Don't.** For courses that meet once a week, even one missed class will set you back, and it invariably adds work for the instructor. Also, please note that per the university administration, **we are not permitted to offer hybrid instruction (i.e. to have some students Zoom in) for classes that are designated as "in-person."**

All that said...there are a lot of other reasons you might not show up—including mental health issues (disclosed or not), as we all deal with the ongoing disruption to our lives brought on by the covid-19 pandemic and the possibility of covid exposure/illness. In such cases, please do check in with your instructor, and please know that we faculty will be as flexible as possible.