

Clarifications regarding attendance in classes, quizzes and final assignments – spring semester, 2020/21 academic year

According to the Academic Regulations, IDC attendance in all courses is mandatory. However, in light of COVID-19, enforcement of this requirement in the 2020/21 academic year has been left to the discretion of the lecturers (under the following restrictions) who are under no obligation to enforce this. Students may watch the recorded lessons and they will not be sanctioned for this by lecturers. *

In hybrid courses that are taught both on campus and via Zoom, students will be considered to have fulfilled the attendance requirement (when attendance is mandatory, according to the restrictions below) even if only via Zoom and not in the classroom on campus.

Due to the circumstances, the following has been decided:

In seminars, workshops, English as a foreign language and similar courses, a lecturer may declare mandatory attendance (according to the regulations) – providing this was stated ahead of time in the course syllabus.

In other courses, if there are special activities that require attendance, the lecturer must inform the students ahead of time on the specific attendance requirement (no more than 40%-50% of the total number of lessons).

Failure to meet the attendance requirement can be taken into consideration when determining the course grade (in accordance with the mentioned restrictions) but cannot prevent a student from taking an exam or submitting a final assignment in the course.

In general, the lecturers in the Israeli and the International tracks have been asked to show consideration in attendance problems, especially in the international track, where some of the students experience difficulty in light of different time zones.

Additional guidelines:

- Students may enter the Zoom session using links sent in the WhatsApp groups; this will not affect the attendance record.
- The student's display name in the Zoom profile must be the student's correct and full name.
- Cameras – students who attend classes are expected to turn on their cameras, but it is not a mandatory requirement. However, a lecturer may require cameras to be on, by advanced notice to the students. In such cases, a student may request prior approval to leave the camera off – by submitting a personal request, including an explanation and a reason for the request.

Test accommodations during class quizzes for students with learning difficulties and disabilities

According to the regulations, in the case of in-class quizzes lecturers must act to the best of their ability to provide students with learning difficulties or disabilities the appropriate examination conditions.

If appropriate examination conditions cannot be provided during the quiz, students who are eligible for accommodations will not be required to take the quiz: When the quiz is part of the overall course grade, the weight of the quiz will be transferred to the weight of the final exam. When the quiz is meant to grant bonus points, the grade will be given automatically to the student.

Students with learning difficulties or disabilities who are eligible for test accommodations, have obtained a written approval from the Examinations Department and exams office and will be able to present this to the lecturer.

Exams and final assignments

At this point in time, we do not know what the situation vis-à-vis the coronavirus will be during the exams period. When we have more clarity regarding the situation, the IDC will define the nature of the final assignments and how they will be conducted, according to the need in each course. Options will include, on-campus exams, exams via Zoom, a paper instead of an exam, final summarizing paper. An announcement will be issued for the students.

An announcement for graduate students will be issued separately by the program heads given the different nature and duration of the graduate programs.