Synchronous Zoom Classroom Expectations and Guidelines for Students

Synchronous class time is about building understanding and community together. We can only do this when we’re fully present and engaged with each other. The only thing in front of you should be the Zoom screen and class material. You should expect to be engaged and doing something (writing, listening, discussing) the entire 45 minutes. In class, we'll construct what we’d like this time to be together as a group.

Keeping our video "on" in our virtual classroom helps build community and connection. While you may need to step away from the camera or stop video for a moment, your teacher will want to check in with you later to make sure you're okay. Consider using the Private Chat function to reach out to your teacher if you're struggling during class and need to step away. Be wary of using Private Chat with your peers. Mistakes get made and are published to the whole group, and Zoom may automatically record Private Chats if the class is recorded. Similarly, muting your microphone can be necessary for distractions or technical issues, but your voice is a crucial part of our class.

Your virtual spaces should reflect our community values. Choose your words and images intentionally and carefully. As stated in The Blue Book, words, images, actions, or other conduct that discriminates, attacks, disparages, demeans, intimidates, or offends an individual or group based on their identity have no place in our community. For example, any sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, classist, ableist, religious intolerant, or any other disrespectful, hateful, or offensive language, conduct, or imagery will not be tolerated--in class discussion, your Zoom background, or screen shares. Students can change Zoom backgrounds, but that activity should not be too frequent to cause class distraction.

Any student who prefers not to give permission for any given recording should mute their microphone and turn off their video feed. They will still be able to see other members of the class, to hear the discussion and to be accountable for their learning. Students who choose to mute their microphone and turn off their video feed may be called on by faculty to provide a written response during class.

Recording and/or sharing of any part of any online and remote learning program without authorization or permission of faculty members and peers is not permitted.