

**Guidance on Course Points**  
Barnard College Committee on Instruction

Barnard College assigns credit hours to measure the amount of course-work required of students, in compliance with standards established by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and the U.S. Department of Education. For a fifteen-week semester (including fourteen weeks of in-class instruction and one week of final examinations), each unit of credit represents a minimum of three hours of academic work per week, with at least one hour spent in class and two hours spent outside of class in preparation and study. NYSED defines a classroom hour as fifty minutes-long.

Departments may modify somewhat the ratio of time spent in class and studying outside of class, as long as the total hours over the course of the term meet or exceed the minimum standard for each point of credit. Classroom hours include time spent in lectures, seminars, colloquia, laboratory sections, workshops, studios, discussion sections, etc. (Please note that seminars typically require of students a substantial amount of independent study and research outside of class; therefore, class times may not correspond exactly to the table below.)

The table below describes the minimum hours of teaching per point of credit for semester-long classes:

**A. Minimum Hours -- Semester-Long Courses**

| <b>Minimum Hours of Instruction - Semester Long Courses</b> |                 |                     |                     |                       |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b># of Credits</b>   | <b>In-Class</b> | <b>Out of Class</b> | <b>Weekly Total</b> | <b>Semester Total</b> |
| 1   | 1 (50 minutes)  | 2                   | 3                   | 42                    |
| 2   | 2 (100)         | 4                   | 6                   | 84                    |
| 3   | 3 (150)         | 6                   | 9                   | 126                   |
| 4   | 4 (200)         | 8                   | 12                  | 168                   |
| 5   | 5 (250)         | 10                  | 15                  | 210                   |