

Behavioral Expectations – Sample Syllabus Language

All students are expected to help create an environment conducive to effective teaching and learning for all participants. Behavior that disrupts teaching and learning is unacceptable; accordingly, all face-to-face or online interaction should be civilized, respectful, and relevant to the topic. Diverse opinions and engaging argumentation are critical to the higher learning endeavor, but inappropriate behavior that disrespects others or inhibits others from learning may result in sanctions, including but not limited to the removal from the classroom and/or the course. Serious or habitual offenses may result in a referral to the Assistant Vice President of Academics, the student conduct system, Campus Safety, and/or Counseling.

The above would serve as a good general statement to be placed in your syllabus. Additionally, you may wish to list specific disruptive behaviors that you plan to regulate, such as:

- *unauthorized use of electronic devices (cell phone, iPod, iPad, laptop, etc.)
 - *arriving late without permission
 - *leaving early without permission
 - *offensive comments
 - *loud and/or frequent side conversations
 - *dominating classroom discussions
 - *frequently interrupting others
 - *aggressively challenging others
 - *sleeping
 - *name calling (attacking the person)
 - *eating and/or drinking in class without permission
 - *appearing under the influence of drugs or alcohol
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A good protocol would be to discuss initial disruptive behavior with the student outside of class and indicate that subsequent such behavior would result in removal from the class or even the course. If you dismiss a student from a class, arrange to meet with the student before allowing him/her to return to class. If you are contemplating removing the student from the course, please consult with the Provost's Office before taking that action. You do have the right to refer any student to the Provost's Office, which will work with Student Life, to determine the next course of action. And please refer any student whom you perceive to be at-risk to oneself or to others to the Good Samaritan Team.