

Pardon the Interruption

Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom
and Ways to Manage Those Behaviors

Panel Members

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Classroom Management

- Set clear expectations
 - Syllabus language
- Enforcement
- Rude behavior...Disrupting behavior...Concerning behavior
- Discuss issues with students after class
 - Connect to resources if needed
- Document behaviors
- Free speech and academic freedom



Syllabus Language Examples

To Clearly Notify Students of Classroom Expectations:

"This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for [COURSE NAME]. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course."

To Encourage Orderly And Productive Classroom Conduct:

"I will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcome. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further."

Student Conduct

- Code Language
 - Disorderly Conduct:
 - *S.2. Disruption of Classroom Environment* - Engaging in conduct that objectively disrupts or interferes with the normal functions of class, including, but not limited to failure to conform to the instructor's announced expectations for classroom decorum
 - Acts of Harm: Physical Injury or Fear/Risk; Failure to Comply
- Due process
 - Educational Conversation vs. Formal Charges
 - Timeframe
- FERPA
 - Initial Consult/Clarifications
 - Limitations



Safety in the Classroom

- Threatening behavior
- Reporting incidents
- Calling Police

Concerning Student Behavior

- Threatening
- Suicidal expressions
- Sexual assault
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior
 - Loud, combative behavior
 - Interfering with instruction

Reporting:

- www.incidentreport.uncc.edu
- Contact the Dean of Students Office

NinerCare Team

- Network designed to bring together information to identify students who have demonstrated behavior of concern to members of the community
- Helps develop and implement action plan to collect info, assist student, and protect University
- Campus Behavioral Intervention Team (CBIT)



Addressing Mental Health

- Contact Counseling and Psychological Services

A Tale from the Classroom...

It is the first day of class and you are in the middle of your 45 minute lecture when Student A's cell phone rings. He proceeds to answer it and to your astonishment begins a detailed conversation on the phone. You speak up and request that Student A leave the classroom because he is interrupting class. Student A ignores your directive and continues to talk, however he lowers his voice to a whisper. You again assert that Student A needs to leave your class. Student A then motions towards you with his index finger as if to indicate, "hold on one minute." You again state that Student A needs to leave the classroom and he ends his phone conversation.

What are you thinking? What do you do? What could have been done differently?

A Tale from the Classroom...

Now that Student A is off the phone, he states out loud that you may continue teaching now. He further adds, "It wasn't a big deal, stop trying to make it one." You remind Student A that there is a strict cell phone policy in the class and continue with your lecture as to not further disrupt class.

What are you thinking? What do you do? What could have been done differently?

A Tale from the Classroom...

As your lecture continues, Student A begins to make remarks under his breath (but loud enough for you and the entire class to hear him) such as, "This is stupid," "What a waste of time," and "I'm learning nothing over here." You continue with your lecture until Student A interrupts saying, "You know class is over, right?" You state that you were not aware, but that you were trying to finish given the disruption earlier. Student A abruptly gets up and says, "Well, I've got places to go and another class to get to on the other side of campus." He walks out.

What are you thinking? What do you do? What could have been done differently?

A Tale from the Classroom...

Wednesday arrives, the second day of class. Student A strolls in and takes his seat. During this class you have planned to give a quiz, so proceed to do so at the beginning. As you approach Student A to hand him his quiz, he begins to argue with you that the quiz should be postponed because you didn't finish the lecture last class. Student A begins to raise his voice at you and his tone could reasonably be perceived as aggressive in nature. You notice several students sitting in the same vicinity begin to lean away, some even move to the other side of the room as Student A continues his outburst. He continues to shout his refusal to take the quiz.

What are you thinking? What do you do? What could have been done differently?

A Tale from the Classroom...

You instruct Student A to leave your classroom given his inappropriate outburst. As he stands up he shoves his desk towards you, nearly hitting you with it. He calls you a "Stupid bltch" and then raises his finger towards you and states, "You better watch out! I'll see you at your office hours!" Student A then storms out of the classroom.

What are you thinking? What do you do? What could have been done differently?

A Tale from the Classroom...

Upon returning to your office later that day, you see that you have several missed calls. You check your voicemail and hear that Student A has left you a tirade of messages regarding the incidents that week in your class. The calls range in tone, aggression, and at times seem tangential in nature. The last call ends in Student A sobbing and asking for forgiveness, stating that he has a lot of "stuff" going on in his life right now and he is not managing it well.

What are you thinking? What are your next steps?

Additional thoughts,
comments, or questions??

Thank you!!
