TO: FIU Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution

SUBJECT: CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM

The Civility Initiative is a collaborative effort by students, faculty and staff to promote civility as a cornerstone of the FIU community. We believe that civility is an essential component of the core values of our University. We strive to include civility in our daily actions and look to promote the efforts of others that do the same. One way we hope to promote and educate students on civility is through their actions and behavior in the classroom. As such, the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution has created a “Civility Statement” to promote positive behavior in the classroom. We hope student’s behavior in the classroom will mirror the values and integrity of our FIU Community. FIU instructors are encouraged to place this civility statement in their syllabus as a way to promote this initiative.

**Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Civility Statement**

FIU prides itself as a community of diverse backgrounds: ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, social, political, economic, gender, sexual orientation, age, and ability. The University encourages, supports and appreciates these differences, and discourages all forms of prejudice, bias, bigotry, discrimination, and intimidation in the process of learning.

Civility is an essential component of the core values of FIU and that includes classroom behavior, whether in-person or online. FIU believes in fostering a supportive, safe, and caring environment conducive to learning. When both faculty and students model civility in the classroom, it contributes to the growth of individuals and their role as concerned and enlightened citizens. All opinions and experiences, despite how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. Students are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea, but never to attack an individual.

Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions as well as in-person ones, and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience. Students are discouraged from checking text messages, social media, playing games on a computer/phone, or carrying on conversations while the instructor is lecturing or a classmate is presenting.

This statement is provided as part of FIU’s Civility Initiative, for more information visit the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution website at conduct.fiu.edu, additional information for faculty, including a complete syllabus statement and other resources from our office can be found under the “Faculty” tab on our website.

Go Panthers!