TO: FIU Faculty and Staff

FROM: Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution

SUBJECT: IN-PERSON & ONLINE CLASS SYLLABUS CIVILITY STATEMENT OPTIONS

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 be placed in course syllabi. We would like to encourage FIU instructors to place this civility statement in their syllabus as a way to help us promote this initiative.

Two statement options are provided below. One is in an information style format and the other is in a pledge style format. Instructors can choose whichever version of the statement best suits their needs. For more information or resources on FIU’s Civility Initiative please contact the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office.

Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Civility Statement Option # 1

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.
Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Civility Statement Option # 2

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.

I acknowledge that civility is an essential component of the core values of FIU. I strive to include civility in my daily actions, this includes my conduct during class (whether in-person or on-line). As an FIU Panther, I believe in fostering a supportive, safe, and caring environment conducive to learning. I believe that faculty and students modeling civility in the classroom and online contributes to the growth of individuals and to our enlightenment as global citizens.

All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, will be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. I am committed to comment, question, or critique an idea, but I will never attack an individual. I will be mindful that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions as well as in-person ones, and generate unintended disruptions. I will do my part to build a polite and respectful course ambience. I will show respect to my instructor and classmates by refraining from checking text messages, social media, playing games on my computer/phone and carrying on disruptive conversations.

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