Classroom Conduct and Expectations*

While there are many informal situations in which people have neither the desire nor the right to prescribe how others ought to behave, a college classroom requires a higher level of courtesy than many people exercise in ordinary public space. Everyone in a classroom is there for the purpose of learning, and no one should be able to deprive another person of the chance to learn. Expressions of rudeness and even of carelessness degrade the high purpose of learning that should be paramount in a college classroom. Your professor expects that you as a student:

- Will be attentive and courteous during class.
- Will complete the assigned work according to the class schedule, and
- Will do all your own work and will not present anyone else’s work as your own (this is also covered by the BSU Code of Conduct).

Some more specific examples of civil conduct in a college classroom:

- Do not cut classes, come in late or leave early. If you ever are late for class, enter in complete silence and do not walk between the class and the professor. Never leave during class unless you absolutely must. Leaving for a short break and then returning is not acceptable. The professor is not a TV set, but a person addressing the class, and it is rude to leave when someone is addressing you.

- Likewise it is rude and inappropriate to talk with classmates while the professor (or another student who has the floor) is talking.

- It is also entirely unacceptable to use a cell phone during class. Cell phones, pagers and similar electronic devices should be turned off prior to the beginning of a class period and left off until after the professor has dismissed the class. To request an exception to this policy on a specific occasion, see the instructor before class begins.

- Visible and noisy signs of restlessness are rude as well as disruptive to others. If you cannot sit still or stay awake, you should not be taking a college class. Do not begin packing your book bag or otherwise indicate that you think it is time for class to come to an end; wait for the professor to dismiss class. If this class period has ended but the professor has not finished and you cannot stay any longer, leave in complete silence.

- Come to class prepared to work. Bring writing materials and other necessary instructional material with you, such as your textbook, workbook, computer disks, etc. Make necessary financial arrangements so that you can purchase all such material at the beginning of the semester. It is a waste of money to pay for a class and then not buy the books you will be reading. Your professor expects you to obtain all necessary material in order to succeed in the course. Your professor also expects you to prepare for class by completing reading and homework assignments. If you are unprepared for class, this may prevent you from participating in a class activity. Do not present your lack of preparation as a problem for the professor to solve or excuse.

- Submit work and take tests on schedule. Professors aim to evaluate all students in a course under the same standards. If you miss a test or fail to turn in work on time, you may not have the opportunity to make it up, because that might give you an advantage not available to the entire class.

- While in class, students are expected to participate actively in discussion, or other activity, at hand. Avoid such unrelated activities as reading newspapers, magazines, or unrelated books, doing homework assignments for this or other classes, balancing checkbooks, sleeping, etc.

- Computers in classrooms are provided for class purposes only. Classroom computers are to be used only when and as directed by the professor – not for general web browsing, etc. Never make any unauthorized changes to any classroom computer or network; such as installing software or creating macros other than as assigned.

- If you bring your own laptop computer to class, do not use it in class without prior approval by the professor for class purposes.

Students who do not follow these expectations may be invited to leave the class. Continued misconduct may lead to removal from the course and initiation of procedures described in the BSU Code of Conduct.

*Excerpted from the 1998-1999 College of Charleston Student Handbook with additional modifications. Passed by 37-0 vote by BSU-COBE faculty as a resource to be made available to all COBE instructors. 3-8-02.