

## Is It Legal? Is It Enforceable?

### What Is and Is NOT Allowable in the Classroom

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#### Are these appropriate (legal) syllabus statements?

- Yes / No** 1. There is no such thing as an excused absence, even if it involves a religious holiday.
- Yes / No** 2. This class begins at 9:30 a.m. At that time, the classroom door will be closed; students arriving late will not be admitted and will be counted absent for the day.
- Yes / No** 3. There will be no make-up exams in this class. Exams will not be announced. If you miss an exam, you will be assigned the grade of zero, regardless of the reason for your absence.
- Yes / No** 4. Every member of your group will get the same grade for the project, regardless of the quality of individual performance.
- Yes / No** 5. 100% of the student's grade will be based on the final exam.
- Yes / No** 6. You are required to wear professional dress on the days of formal oral presentations. Points will be deducted from your presentation grade if you dress too casually or wear distracting jewelry.
- Yes / No** 7. Every student must attend a conference – outside of class time – in my office. Missing the conference is an absence.

Thanks to Ted Arrington, Meg Morgan, Charlynn Ross, and Bill Steimer at UNC-Charlotte for their expertise, examples, and guidance on this topic.

**Yes / No** 8. Class participation means that students regularly must make oral contributions to the class. Those who do not speak will have the class participation grade reduced.

**Yes / No** 9. Students may not wear baseball hats in class.

**Yes / No** 10. Students must work in groups and be available to meet with group members regularly outside of class.

**Are these appropriate (legal) actions for you to take as an instructor?**

**Yes / No** 11. Your students take a quiz. You ask them to exchange papers, and then you read out the correct answers. Students grade each other's papers. You ask each student, in turn, to read out the name of the student and the grade he/she earned on the quiz as you record the grades in your grade book.

**Yes / No** 12. You enter the classroom with a pile of graded exams and ask Joe, your pet student, to hand them back to the other students.

**Yes / No** 13. You leave a pile of graded papers outside your door for students to pick up at their convenience.

**Yes / No** 14. You leave graded papers taped to your door in envelopes with the each student's name written on the outside, for each student to pick up his/her graded paper.

**Yes / No** 15. You leave your grade book open on the desk in your classroom as you take one student into the hallway to discuss an issue privately.

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- Yes / No** 16. Sam, a student in your class, has given you an accommodation plan. He is taking an exam in your classroom; when the class time is over, you collect all the other students' exams except his. When a student asks why Sam gets to keep working, you say, "Sam has a learning disability, so he gets to have extra time."
- Yes / No** 17. Students come to class unprepared. Frustrated, you dismiss the entire class and count everyone absent.
- Yes / No** 18. A student wears a t-shirt with the words "f--- racism" on the front and the back. You tell him that he has to wear the t-shirt inside out or leave the classroom.
- Yes / No** 19. Your absence limit on your syllabus is 4 class meetings, and you clearly state that missing more than 4 classes will earn a student an F2. A student misses a fifth day during the last week of classes due to an emergency appendectomy. The student's grade in the course, based on exams and papers, is a C. You give the student an F2 based on lack of attendance.
- Yes / No** 20. A student says aloud in class, "This test was bullshit; you suck!" You demand an apology, but the student refuses and says, "Make me!" You tell the student to leave the class and not return until he/she is ready to apologize for disrupting the class.

**Extra Credit:**

**What is FERPA?** \_\_\_\_\_

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