
Classroom Conduct

Cuyamaca College English Department

We the English Department at Cuyamaca College uphold the dignity and worth of every person and the right of every student to learn. Therefore, we strive to foster the respect which is essential for all of us to be able to live and work together.

This code of *Classroom Conduct* addresses behavior related to students' rights and responsibilities associated with learning and also to

teachers' rights and responsibilities associated with teaching.

As a student you are embarking on the most exciting and challenging years of your life. Much will be given to you, but much is also expected of you. One aspect of your experience at Cuyamaca which you will find as rewarding as it is challenging is the development of your personal sense of integrity and honor.

BE CONSIDERATE OF YOURSELF

All students and all teachers must do their best at all times. Only by living and working according to this principle can we reach our fullest potential. This principle implies such guidelines as:

- Attend all classes; be on time, ready to work, and do not leave early.
- Do 100% of your assigned work, and meet all deadlines.
- To learn effectively you must expect to work two to three hours outside class for every hour spent in class.
- Do not plagiarize since you ultimately rob no one but yourself. (What, say, would be the point of cheating on piano lessons?)

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER PEOPLE

Always strive to help other students and your teachers to do their best. Work to build an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy. For instance:

- Do not talk or make noise while any other person is speaking, reading, or writing. Learning depends upon full concentration at all times, and *no one appreciates disruptions.*
- Set beepers to “vibrate,” and turn off phone ringers.
- Consider the feelings of others, and do not make negative, offensive, or aggressive remarks.
- Your opposing and unconventional ideas are always welcome, so do not attack others simply because you do not agree with them. Instead, try to welcome diversity of opinion.
- Your teachers are not televisions.* They are humans who *personally* interact with you—even while they are lecturing. Expect to inter-

act with them—even if only internally. Your engagement (quiet or verbal) with the subject matter at hand is appreciated immensely. Conversely, when you openly display boredom, irritation, or animosity, you are taken very seriously—*personally.*

- Wait to discuss your personal progress with your teachers until after class. (At the beginning of a class session teachers usually are concentrating on preparations for class.)
- Try to distinguish between comments which are appropriate in the classroom and those which would be more appropriate during office hours. (If you are not sure, ask your teachers privately.)
- Never* ask teachers such questions as “Did I miss anything last week?” or “Are we doing anything important today?” *Always* assume that every detail of every class session is essential.
- Feel free to ask for clarification of details, but asking whether a particular detail will be on a test is always inappropriate. Consider *everything*—every word of every lecture, discussion, or reading—essential to the class and fair game for tests.

BE CONSIDERATE OF PROPERTY

Always respect things which do not belong to you:

- Keep the classroom, library, computer center, and campus clean and free of litter.
- Leave the classroom as orderly as—or more orderly than—you found it.
- Do not misuse (infect, modify, or destroy) computer software, data, equipment, or networks.