SAMPLE CLASS GUIDELINES from CRIMINOLOGY 311

The following is a summary of the guidelines developed by the class to assist us in keeping our seminar environment healthy and safe as we talk about some difficult issues.

(Shared by Sheri Fabian, Senior Lecturer, Criminology)

Building a Healthy Class Environment

- Be respectful of self, speakers and class members
- Be open minded – remember that not all comments will reflect individual beliefs
- Don’t attack the person, address the argument/statement (non-aggressive)
- Resolve conflict immediately
- Remember that healthy disagreement is positive - you can agree to disagree
- Be non-judgmental
- Be aware of assumptions/stereotypes
- Appreciate perspectives and differences
- Remember that people are talking from personal experiences - be empathetic
- Be aware of, and respectful of, individual personalities and understand that other opinions exist
- Encourage contributions for all class members - don’t monopolize class time
  - Give everyone a chance to speak
- No personal insults or personal attacks, no slurs and no name-calling - don’t use derogatory terms
  - Be aware of tone, language, volume, and gestures when speaking
- Learn to be comfortable with silence
- Use “I” statements
- Use people’s names
- Listen to others before speaking
- Acknowledge potentially ‘offensive’ comments but realize that this does not absolve responsibility for making them
- Criticism should be constructive
- Keep an open mind
- Be conscientious of inappropriate/offensive laughter, body language, cutting people off, belittling
- Do not confuse perspective with fact
- No texting, laptops, sidebar conversations when others are presenting
- If entering class late – be conscious of interrupting those speaking
- Respect privacy outside of class room
- Remember we can all learn from the experiences of others