

Student trying to negotiate final grade

Friday, December 13, 2013 9:19 PM

Professor De la Cova,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for an interesting semester. You were able to structure a course that was informative, while also engaging students and maintaining our interest in the material. Also, being at a large university, I have come to appreciate when a professor is able to learn the names of their individual students. It makes one feel like less of a grade without a face. That being said, I have to confess that I am disappointed with my grade, hence the reason for my email. I understand that your policy concerning this subject is fairly strict, however, I have found myself in a position where I must ask you to reconsider. My GPA is in danger of dropping below the required minimum in order to maintain my scholarship, without which I will be unable to afford USC tuition and will likely have to finish out my education at a technical college in my hometown, effectively ruining my career plans. Anyway, in an effort to keep my already lengthy email as brief as possible, I would like to ask you to take into consideration my perfect attendance, along with the fact that I made an A on the first two tests. I realize it is no one's fault but my own, but I do not believe that the grade on my final reflects my full potential, as I had a very difficult exam only a few hours before yours. I would also not be writing this email if I did not believe that the effort I put into your course did not merit a higher grade. I do apologize for the length of my email, but it is important to me. Regardless of your decision on the matter, I do appreciate your time. Thanks again for a good semester.

Friday, December 13, 2013 11:51 PM

Student,

Thanks for your kind words. You are aware of what your problem in my class was, as you indicate that you had a very difficult exam prior to taking mine.

Unfortunately, I cannot comply with your request. I have to abide by the syllabus contract policy and cannot make individual exceptions. It would be unethical and unfair to all other students, who would likewise be deserving of special treatment. That's why the course syllabus contract specifically states: "Your grade is not negotiable."

As I have told the class, I dropped out of high school on the second week of tenth grade. I then had to focus and make an extraneous effort to be successful. I hope that you can turn this negative experience into a learning and positive experience in the future.

Best wishes,
D.L.C.