

From: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO
To: STUDENT
Cc: LIGGETT, ALISA
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 10:36 AM
Subject: Class disruption

Last Thursday, March 7, while I was lecturing in class, you became disruptive, challenged my authority, and left class in a huff before I dismissed it.

The incident started when I was engaging the class in discussion of the course material. I asked you a question that had been previously posted on BlackBoard for that day's lesson and you admitted that you had not done the assigned reading. I asked the same question to three other students and all admitted that they had not done the reading for that day. You then loudly spoke out in an insolent manner, "If nobody in the class has done the reading, why do you keep asking the same question?" My response was "Don't tell me how to run my class. I am abiding by the rules stated on the course syllabus." You became agitated and more argumentative and I replied that we would continue the class according to the syllabus instructions and not how individual students wanted to run the class. The exchange lasted less than a minute. At 4:45 PM, when class usually ends, I was in the middle of answering a student's question when you started heading out the door. I informed you that I had not yet dismissed class and you angrily replied, "It's 4:45, and you have gone into my break time." I responded that had you not been disruptive there would have been no need to delay the class for a minute. None of the other students left until class was dismissed.

The course syllabus indicates: "The 10% attendance grade will diminish by 10% every time you do not respond to class discussion questions, sleep in class, do any behavior distraction, and arrive after the roll has been taken." You will therefore be deducted from the attendance grade 10% for not responding to the class discussion question, 10% for behavior distraction during your disturbance challenging my authority, and another 10% for disrupting the class before I dismissed it. Your behavior was so outrageous that I received an email from a student, in representation of others, who were upset by what they referred to as your outburst.

I reported your insolent and disruptive behavior to Alisa Cooney Liggett, the USC Director of Student Conduct and Chair of the Behavioral Intervention Team. She indicated that you cannot return to my class until you first meet with me to discuss this matter.

The course syllabus indicates that my office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. However, to expedite this matter, if you cannot meet at that time, I will be available in my office between 12:30 PM and 3:00 PM on Tuesday, March 19. Please let me know when you will be available to meet, if you desire to do so, otherwise, you cannot return to class.

Prof. A. de la Cova

From: DE LA COVA, ANTONIO
To: STUDENT
Cc: LIGGETT, ALISA
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:48 AM

After meeting with you yesterday and coming to an agreement, I accept your apology.

You indicated that your outburst and contentiousness was due to your stressful day and that you were overwhelmed due to difficulties in three other courses. You stated that you had no problems with my course, even though you received a C grade on your first exam. I advised that I usually

tell students in your situation to drop the most difficult course and focus on raising your grade in the other courses.

We agreed that for the rest of the semester you would sit on the front row of the class, away from the nattering clique that previously surrounded you in the back of the room. You took your new seat in yesterday's class and were attentive.

I am available to you and all other students who have academic difficulties during my office hours or by appointment.

I wish you success this semester.

Prof. A. de la Cova