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## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CLASSROOM

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### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:

Over several years of teaching, we (the instruction staff) have come to the conclusion that we need to give you (the students) a concrete set of expectations both in terms of what we expect from you, and what you can expect from us. While this document is certainly incomplete and will not be able to cover all possible scenarios, we hope that you will use it as a set of guidelines to properly set your expectations, and thus endeavor to meet them.

- 1) You are an adult, and we expect you to behave like one. Your success (or failure) is your own responsibility.
  - a) It is your responsibility to learn the material covered in the class
  - b) It is your responsibility to adequately prepare for the class, e.g.: reading and lab assignments.
  - c) It is your responsibility to turn in assignments on time, in the right format, in the right place, and to verify that you did so (especially for electronic submissions).
  - d) It is your responsibility to figure out date/time/location for quizzes, midterms, etc.; failure to show up means you fail the quiz/midterm/etc.
  - e) It is your responsibility to get “checked off” by the staff if required.
  - f) It is your responsibility to try and solve problems by yourself first, if you cannot, then it is your responsibility to seek help.
  - g) It is your responsibility to ask questions if something is unclear or you don’t understand.
- 2) Time management is your responsibility. You will need to figure out how to allocate your time to cover all that you need to do.
  - a) You will need to manage your distractions and prioritize your work.
  - b) You need to start your assignments with enough time before the due date to complete them; extensions to deadlines should never be expected.
  - c) If you have a partner for an assignment, it is your responsibility to contact them and arrange adequate time to work together.
  - d) You are typically given a total of 72 hours of “grace period” to be late cumulatively for the lab assignments. It is up to you to allocate it wisely. Note that for partnered assignments, this will use up grace allocations for both partners.
  - e) We don’t need to know why you are using your grace period time.
  - f) If you have some exceptional circumstance that is not covered by the grace period time, we need to know this at the time that it is occurring or as soon as humanly possible (electronic contact is fine).
- 3) It is your responsibility to come to lecture, pay attention, and take notes (lecture videos, slide copies, etc. are provided as a courtesy).
  - a) It is your responsibility to get to lecture on time.
  - b) It is your responsibility to come to lecture ready to learn.
  - c) Don’t expect that watching the lecture videos or reviewing the handout notes to be the same as being in lecture.
  - d) If you have feedback, give it directly and in a timely fashion (we are always trying to improve the quality of our instruction).
  - e) Office hours and TA sessions are for additional questions and/or feedback.

- 4) You do not deserve any particular grade; it is up to you to demonstrate mastery of the subject.
  - a) In general, you will get out of the class what you put into it.
  - b) Minimal effort on your part results in poor learning.
  - c) There are others who want/need to take this class; if you are not willing to do the work, withdraw and let someone else into the class.
- 5) Complaints about grading and/or requests for more points will subject you to a full regrade.
  - a) Mathematical errors on our part will be immediately resolved.
  - b) Likewise any work you did which we somehow missed will be graded appropriately.
  - c) Forgiveness for carelessness on your part is very limited.
  - d) Subjective calls on points for a given piece of work will be balanced against all such subjective calls on all your work.
- 6) You are expected to conduct yourself with respect, dignity, and bearing commensurate with a student of an institute of higher learning.
  - a) This applies to both in person interactions as well as online.
  - b) This applies to conduct with your peers as well as conduct with your instructional staff.
- 7) The time and effort required to succeed must come from you; no one else can do it for you.
  - a) You are here voluntarily; no one is forcing you to take this class.
  - b) This is beyond lecture time.
  - c) This is where/when you learn the material.
  - d) You will get out of your education what you put in.

**EXPECTATIONS OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF:**

Just as we have expectations of what your responsibilities are, you also have expectations of what our responsibilities are as well. It is the instructional staff's responsibility to:

- 1) Show up to lecture on time, with the material prepared.
- 2) Be both clear and precise in our requirements.
- 3) Accept your feedback (both positive and negative) in a professional manner.
- 4) Be fair and consistent in our grading and evaluation.
- 5) In general, do our best to deliver the material in a way that can be reasonably understood.
- 6) Maintain the rigor of the class and assessments we use.
- 7) Conduct our interactions with respect, dignity, and professionalism at all times.
- 8) Consistently work to improve our instruction and maintain the quality of the learning environment.

I have read and understood this document: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (CruzID)