Curriculum & Student Objections

Students sometimes object to course curriculum. Curriculum is based on the official Outline of Record. The best mitigating strategy is adding a statement in the course syllabus. There are two examples stating that there may be controversial or sensitive topics discussed in the course and that “all course content is based on the official Outline of Record.” While no blanket statement would cover all courses at the College, instructors who teach controversial or sensitive topics are encouraged to add a statement to their syllabi if they are having occasional disruptions from students about course material. Students who refuse to do assignments will not receive credit unless an instructor chooses (or is able) to provide an alternative assignment.

Faculty webpages are also an ideal place to post statements similar to the ones below for students to reference.

Suggestions for Syllabus Statement:

(A) (the arts)

“The content of this class may sometimes be such that it conflicts with your personal opinions and/or beliefs. Moreover, artists often deal with controversial issues in their work. All class content will be discussed in a respectful and mature manner without any intention to cause or incite a hostile environment. All curriculum is based on the official Outline of Record for this course.”

(B) (sciences)

CONTENT NOTICE:
The content of this course includes the discussion of controversial subjects including, but not limited to, stem cell research, abortion, evolution and human sexuality. This course includes a required lab that makes use of animal specimens and various biological fluids. Participation in labs using these materials is required. Failure to participate will negatively impact student grades. By remaining enrolled in this class you acknowledge these content and usage notices, agree not to contest the inclusion of these materials in the course, and understand that learning about these topics and using biological materials is required for successful completion of the course.

Rvsd. 4/6/15tmd