

# Strategies to Prevent Classroom Disruptions

## Model the Behaviors You Prescribe

- Be prepared, be on time, be respectful, turn off your own cell phone etc.

## Be Accessible

- Be available during your posted office hours.
- Encourage students to discuss their issues related to the course during your office hours, as opposed to addressing them while class is in progress.

## During the Course Orientation

- Outline your expectations and offer specific examples of disruptive classroom behaviors (see Examples of Disruptive Classroom Behaviors @ <http://saweb.memphis.edu/judicialaffairs/>).
- Provide rationale regarding why behaviors will not be allowed (diminish positive learning environment for all students).
- Identify non-permitted communication (unexcused exits, overt inattentiveness, and other distracting behaviors).
- Place expectations in syllabus where feasible and/or provide students with a web link to Student Judicial and Ethical Programs for information on Disruptive Classroom Behaviors.

# How to Deal with Classroom Disruptions

## Confront Problem Students

- Address problems at an early stage, in the least confrontational, but in a clear manner – a look, a brief and polite request if necessary in class, and if appropriate a one-on-one conversation right after class or in the next office hour.
- Provide students with written and/or verbal warnings that if disruptive behaviors persist other actions may be taken (referral to Judicial and Ethical Programs or instigate procedures for removal from the course).

## Document Disruptive Behavior

- Make written notations of disruptive behaviors. This will serve as documentation that identifies patterns of behavior and will assist with determining an appropriate action to be taken.

All instances of threatening behavior should be reported to Police Service, even if you feel it “was under control” before the end of class. Police Services may see clues in the behavior that signal a larger problem and could do a quick background and assessment of the possible threat seriousness.