

Sample Syllabus Language **Accessibility & Inclusivity**

This guide includes sample syllabus language for:

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- [Inclusivity statements](#)
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Land Acknowledgement

Sample Land Acknowledgement

Formulated by the tribal chairperson of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in collaboration with Rick Flores, Horticulturist and Steward of the Amah Mutsun Relearning Program at the UCSC Arboretum

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional and unceded territory of the Uypi Tribe of the Awaswas Nation. Today these lands are represented by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band who are the descendants of the Awaswas and Mutsun Nations whose ancestors were taken to Mission Santa Cruz and Mission San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast. Today the Amah Mutsun are working hard to fulfill their obligation to the Creator to care for and steward Mother Earth and all living things through relearning efforts and the Amah Mutsun Land Trust.

Instructor Resources on Land Acknowledgements

Native Land, “Territory Acknowledgement” (<https://native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/>)

Micki Luckey and AJ Pluss, “Living on Ohlone Land: What We Learned from Indigenous Women Leaders” (<https://medium.com/surjibayarea/living-on-ohlone-land-what-we-learned-from-indigenous-women-leaders-e3c47b7565>)

The Varsity, “To Properly Acknowledge Indigenous Territory, Go Off Script” (<https://thevarsity.ca/2019/03/16/to-properly-acknowledge-indigenous-territory-go-off-script/>)

Accessibility and Accommodations Statements

Standard Language from the Disability Resource Center (DRC)

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Sample Personalized Accessibility Statement

Adapted from UC Santa Cruz faculty

I aim to make our learning community as accessible as possible. This means that I aim to provide accessible materials and to create opportunities for different kinds of engagement in our classroom space. If you come across materials that are not accessible to you, or experience a barrier to your participation in a class or meeting, please bring this to my attention and I will gladly work with you to ensure accessibility. If you are a student with a disability (disabilities can include mental health and attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts) who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At that time, I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact the DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Inclusivity Statements

Sample Inclusivity Statement (General)

Adapted from University of Iowa College of Education

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and with all perspectives feel included and are able to learn and achieve their goals in this course. The diversity that all students bring to this class is a resource, strength, and benefit to us all. It is my intent to bring to class materials and activities that embrace a diversity of perspectives, experiences, and positions. Your suggestions for making this learning community as inclusive as possible are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know if you identify ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. If any of our class meetings conflict with your religious or cultural events, please let me know so that we can work together to make alternative arrangements.

Sample Inclusivity Statement (Discussion-based Courses)

Adapted from faculty at University of Michigan

In our in-class discussions and dialogues, we will have the opportunity to explore challenging, high-stakes issues and increase our understandings of different perspectives. Our conversations may not always be easy. We sometimes will make mistakes in our speaking and our listening. Sometimes we will need patience or courage or imagination or any number of qualities in combination to engage our texts, our classmates, and our own ideas and experiences. Always we will need respect for others. Thus, an important aim of our classroom interactions will be for us to increase our facility with the sometimes difficult conversations that arise inside issues of social justice as we deepen our understandings of multiple perspectives – and make the most of being in a room with people of many backgrounds, experiences, and positions.

Further Ideas for Inclusivity Statements

Adapted from Yale's Poornu Center for Teaching

An inclusivity statement can also provide a space for addressing the following:

- Giving explanations of why certain voices or identities are present or lacking on the syllabus reading list.
- Providing personal stories of how the instructor has been affected by marginalization or lack of diversity in the field or in higher education, or by efforts to promote inclusivity in the field or in higher education.
- Giving examples of how the instructor struggled with the course material as a student, and drawing from student experience to communicate strategies for how to succeed in the course.
- Acknowledging the history of exclusion of people with diverse identities, backgrounds, or ideologies from the field.
- Providing ground rules for discussing hot topics, such as national politics or campus controversies.
- Explaining how specific teaching practices are meant to address the learning needs of diverse students.

Principles of Community

Sample Community Principles Statement

I understand that every classroom represents a rich variety of student backgrounds and perspectives. I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects and embraces diversity. While working with you to build this community, I ask all of us to:

- share our unique experiences, values, and beliefs
- be open to the views of others
- honor the uniqueness of our colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other in this community
- value each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that our community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the university community

Sample Community Principles Statement

Adapted from UC Santa Cruz faculty

I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity and supports inclusivity. We need to work together to build this community of learning. I ask all members of this class to: (**OR:** We will collaboratively build community guidelines during the first week of the quarter. In addition to those class-generated guidelines, I ask all members of this class to:)

- be open to and interested in the views of others
- consider the possibility that your views may change over the course of the term
- be aware that this course asks you to reconsider some “common sense” notions you may hold
- honor the unique life experiences of your colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other
- listen to each other's opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- ground your comments in the texts we are studying. Refer frequently to the texts and make them the focus of your questions, comments, and arguments. This is the single most effective way to ensure respectful discussion and to make the classroom a place where we are all learning together.