

# Department of Geography

## Code of Conduct

### For the Classroom

In the Department of Geography, instructors strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect in which learning, debate and intellectual growth can thrive. Creating this atmosphere requires that instructors and students work to achieve a classroom in which learning is not disrupted. At the most basic level, this means that everyone attends class, be prepared with readings and assignments completed, and that students pay attention. This means no conversations with friends, reading the newspaper, coming late or leaving early. Such behavior is disruptive to the instructor and to your fellow classmates.

These basics of classroom etiquette are an important means of building and showing mutual respect. Inevitably however, disagreements will arise. Sometimes these disagreements will be about content, sometimes about grades or course procedures, and sometimes they will be about the treatment of participants in the class. In order to facilitate the resolution of these disagreements, everyone should follow the following guidelines:

- All interactions must be guided by mutual respect and trust.
- If some aspect of the class bothers you, identify what it is that is bothering you and center the discussion on that issue.
- Address issues that concern you early. Problems are easier to resolve before they fester.
- Consider whether it is best to address your concerns in class or in a separate appointment with the instructor. Remember, behavior that disrupts your fellow classmates is not acceptable.
- Abusive speech or behavior will not be tolerated in any interaction between students or between student and instructor. If an instructor feels that your speech or behavior is abusive, you will be asked to leave the room. If you believe an instructor has become abusive, you may leave the room and talk with the department chairperson. Debate and discussion can continue when all parties proceed with mutual respect.
- If mutual respect cannot be restored, either you or the instructor may take the issue to the department chairperson or the Campus Ombuds Office.

### Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words, pictures, ideas or procedures without proper acknowledgement, or to present them as if they originated with you. In science and especially in academics, plagiarism is unacceptable. In an exam, for example, copying from someone else's test booklet and handing it in as if it were your own work is plagiarism. In some instances it is difficult to document whether plagiarism

has occurred. In other situations, particularly learning situations, it is possible that students who do not know the protocols of academic expression can inadvertently plagiarize. In some cultures, direct use of another person's words bring great honor to the quoted person. In this university, plagiarism constitutes a form of cheating, and will not be tolerated. If you are unsure whether to cite someone else's work as you work through an assignment, come talk with me about it.

## The Honor Code

### THE PLEDGE

"On my honor, as a CU Boulder Student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."

Students will be asked to include this pledge on their written assignments and tests.

The full Honor Code is available for your review on-line, at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode> (updated 10/9/06)

## Inclusivity Statement

CU Boulder Geography acknowledges that racism, classism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, casteism, and other forms of oppression exist on our campus and impact the learning environment of our students. This department also recognizes that our diversity can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. All races/ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and nationalities **are welcome here**.

Building an inclusive environment where all students can share their rich array of perspectives and experiences is key to the learning experience at CU Boulder. For our class to be successful, everyone should feel they can contribute and learn in a supportive environment. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values and beliefs. To the extent that we each bring forward our unique and full selves, we will deepen the learning for ourselves and each other. Each of us shares the responsibility for making our classroom and the university a positive and better place to live, work, and learn and, as such, we will treat every individual with respect, dignity, and civility. In the time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. There is zero tolerance for racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or other discriminatory language or exclusionary behavior on our campus. If you feel a sense of isolation from the CU Boulder community or if you need any specific accommodations, please speak with the instructor early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do to support you.

## For Faculty Meetings

We strive for productive exchange based on trust and respect. This includes the following ground rules and skills:

- a. Disagreements should be expressed in respectful and thoughtful ways to *encourage* dialogue, rather than close it down.

- b. Practice the skill of feeling disappointment without verbally attacking others.
- c. Strive to build trust.
- d. Maintain respect for the diversity of scholarship that constitutes Geography.
- e. Keep all discussions about votes confidential.
- f. Call in outside facilitators to facilitate as needed, e.g.

<https://www.colorado.edu/hr/employee-learning/crucial-conversations>

In addition all faculty members at CU Boulder are expected to follow the [Professional Rights and Responsibilities document](#)

Also see the Geography Department's [Grievance Procedure](#)