

# **FALL 2021 SUGGESTED SYLLABUS STATEMENTS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY**

## **Introduction**

In addition to the [Fall Semester guidance](#) that Provost McRorie and Vice President Janet Kistner have recently offered faculty, the Faculty Senate Steering Committee has prepared the below suggested materials to assist faculty in communicating with students through their syllabi about the new mask and recording policies now in effect. We will discuss these suggested statements at our first Faculty Senate meeting on September 15, 2021, but for now, **we ask that you distribute them to instructional faculty in your Colleges and Departments as soon as possible, while fall syllabi are under construction.**

These are suggested statements, which means that faculty are free to adopt, modify, or disregard them in their own syllabi as they see fit. They are also available online at the [Faculty Senate Curriculum Resources](#) page and [Faculty Senate Resolutions](#) page. With regard to the public health protocols statement, which addresses mask policy and other public health recommendations, we emphasize that the Covid-19 situation is fast-moving, and that guidance may change at any time. For now, this provides a tool for communicating with students about Florida State University's [expectations](#) that everyone masks in our classrooms, even though we cannot formally require it.

With regard to the HB233 recordings policy, we offer two suggested statements, one for use in courses where recordings will be permitted of at least some portion of classes, and another for those in which recordings are categorically excluded under state law and [university policy](#). Note that Vice President Kistner also provided a suggested syllabus statement in [earlier guidance](#) delineating when HB233 recording is and is not permissible. The language here provides additional resources for faculty to draw from in creating their syllabi. So long as courses are conducted in accordance with university policy, you may adopt your own syllabus statement, one of the statements here, the statement provided previously by the administration, some combination, or no statement at all.

We hope you find these resources useful and look forward to discussing them with you in September.

## **Suggested Syllabus Statements**

### **Suggested Syllabus Statement on Public Health Protocols**

In our classroom, I will expect everyone to wear a proper, well-fitting mask. As our President has informed the university community, FSU expects everyone on campus to use face-coverings. In regions where virus rates are high, the CDC recommends that even vaccinated individuals wear masks in public indoor spaces, like classrooms, especially where social distancing is not possible. Florida infection and hospitalization rates are greater now than they were at the height of the 2020 surge due to the Delta variant, a more infectious and easily transmissible version of the COVID-19 virus. The best way to protect against serious illness is to be fully vaccinated, but not everyone among us can be. Because the Delta variant can infect even vaccinated individuals and can be spread by them to others, it poses a special threat to members of the community with underlying health conditions and children at home who are too young for vaccination.

For these reasons, FSU expects each member of the community to comply with the public health protocols our President set forth on August 9, 2021, including (1) wearing masks in public indoor spaces, (2) getting fully vaccinated, (3) being tested for the virus if you have symptoms, and (4) staying home and away from others if you are sick. Please remember that you should NOT attend class in person if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are quarantining after exposure. Finally, please bear in mind that the COVID-19 situation is fast moving and that university guidance on the issue may change at any time.

### **Suggested Syllabus Statement for Classes Subject to HB233 Recording**

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

### **Suggested Syllabus Statement for Courses Not Subject to HB233 Recording**

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, you may not make recordings of classroom activities without the permission of the instructor. This policy applies to both audio and video recordings.