

Civility: What Is It Good For?

Constructing Civility
Initiatives for Your Campus

Joshua Cutchens, Florida
Gulf Coast University
Lauren Paxton, Florida Gulf
Coast University

What Do You See?

We want everyone to close your eyes and picture your home campus.

“To be fully human we must be able to imagine others’ hurt and to relate it to the hurt we would experience if we were in their place, (Forni, 2002).

At FGCU

Can you say Dunk City at
its finest?

So Where Can We Start?

1. Office of Student Conduct
2. Division of Student Affairs
3. University community



Civility and Community



Standards Workshop



Workshop Standards

- Confidentiality:
 - What happens here, stays here.
 - That goes for what is said as well.
- Keep an open mind.
 - Be understanding of the ideas and values of others.
 - Have courtesy and respect for everyone present.
- Participate!!!
 - Your active participation is needed throughout the entire workshop!



Learning Objectives

- Provide students with information that will promote an understanding of civility and community and the role that these have in everyday life.
- Evoke the evaluation of personal morals and values as they relate to the formation of a civil foundation.
- Learn principles that guide good decision making in regards to oneself as well as the entire community.
- Apply strategies to assist with future decision making that reflect your personal values.



DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

Workshop Outline

- Defining Civility:
 - What is it?
 - Historical Civility
- Defining Community:
 - What is it?
 - What constitutes a community at FGCU?
- Civility, Community and Morals:
 - Moral Theory
 - Charles Schultz Activity
- Defining Oneself:
 - Self-Portrayal Discussion & Reflection
- Bystander Intervention:
 - What is it?
 - Why is it important to understand?
 - How do personal values conflict with this?
- Case Study Activity
 - Residence Hall
 - Classroom
- Relation to Student Code of Conduct
- Wrap-up & Post-Workshop Assignment



Introductions

- Everyone stand up and face each other in a circle.
- When you get the beach ball tossed to you, please answer:
 - First Name
 - Major/Field of Study
 - Why did you choose FGCU?
 - **When you think of civility, what is the first word to come to mind and why?**
- ****NOTE: every person must use a different word****





DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

[illegible]



What is Civility?

- The Webster's Dictionary definition:
 - Civilized conduct; especially: courtesy, politeness
 - A polite act or expression
- According to P.M. Forni's *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct*:
 - "Civility is a form of goodness; it is a gracious goodness. But it is not just an attitude of benevolent and thoughtful relating to other individuals; it also entails an active interest in the well-being of our communities and even a concern for the health of the planet on which we live," (Forni, 2002).
- What about Colloquium?



Historical Civility



- At the age of 16, George Washington wrote in his own hand 110 Rules and Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation.
- The first rule he transcribed was:

“Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.”
- Can we take this even further?



Civility in Modern Times

- On April 12, 2012, Newark, New Jersey mayor Cory Booker ran into his neighbor's burning home and rescued her while officers on scene were hesitant to enter the building.
- He suffered 2nd degree burns on his hands and exhibited severe symptoms of smoke inhalation.
- His response? – “I did what any neighbor would do...help a neighbor.”



- Do we see this today?
- [Are you sure?](#)



Civility in Modern Times

- After watching the video, let's discuss the following:
 1. Do you believe that civility is a thing of the past?
 2. Does civility have a direct correlation with community?
 3. Can you have a prospering community (like a college campus) with a lack of civility?



DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

Community





What is Community?

- The Webster's Dictionary definition:
 - A group of people living in a particular local area...[that have] common rights, privileges, or interests...[that are] under the same laws and regulations.
- Let's name some other examples...



A Moral Application

- Carol Gilligan's Morality of Responsibility
 - Level I: Orientation to Individual Survival
 - : Individual centers on self; conflict between self and others

Have you seen this before?

First Transition: From Selfishness to Responsibility

- Decision making focused on one's responsibility of moral choice rather than personal needs



A Moral Application

- Level II: Goodness as Self-Sacrifice
 - : Acceptance by others is seen as necessity for survival, thus doing good is of high regard

Have you seen this before?

Second Transition: From Goodness to Truth

- Recognition that morality of care is focused on intentional care of self and others



A Moral Application

- Level III: Morality of Nonviolence
 - : Care is seen as a universal obligation where nonviolence is seen as the fundamental principle of moral judgment and action

Have you seen this before?

Hot Topics: [No-call change](#) | [Hippo mourned](#) | [Cocktail renaissance](#) | [Brewers chat](#)

 [Milwaukee County](#)

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Milwaukee County](#)



Jim Stingl | [In My Opinion](#)

[E-mail](#)

Mom tracks down 'mystery man' who gave son baseball at Brewers game



Photo courtesy of Sarah Kooiman/Arena Five blog
Sarah Kooiman's son, Isaiah, is seen with a baseball given to him Sunday by a "Mystery Man" at Miller Park.

Facebook entry helps lead her to Chad McLaughlin

Aug. 6, 2013



The Charles Schultz Activity

- Try to name these:
 - The five wealthiest people in the world,
 - The last five Heisman trophy winners,
 - The last five winners of the Nobel Prize,
 - The last five teams who have won the World Series.



The Charles Schultz Activity

- Name the following:
 - List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
 - Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
 - Name three people who have taught you something worthwhile.
 - Name three people who have made you feel appreciated and special.



The Charles Schultz Activity

- Answers:
 - 1. Carlos Slim Helu, Bill Gates, Amancio Ortega, Warren Buffett, Larry Ellison
 - 2. Johnny Manziel, Robert Griffin III, Cam Newton, Mark Ingram, Sam Bradford
 - 3. Org. for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, European Union, Ellen Sirleaf, Liu Xiaobo, Barack Obama
 - 4. SF Giants, St. Louis Cardinals, SF Giants, NY Yankees, Philadelphia Phillies



The Charles Schultz Activity

William Arthur Ward said it best:

“Flatter me, and I may not believe you.

Criticize me, and I may not like you.

Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.

Encourage me – and I may not forget you.”



Bystander Effect

- When you hear this phrase, what does that mean to you?
- One definition is a phenomenon in which individuals do not offer any type of assistance to someone in need when other people are [present](#).





DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

Bystander Effect

- When you saw this video, what did you think?
- What if this were to happen at Alico Arena? In your residence hall?
- Have you ever experienced this before?
- What values were shown by the people who did not assist? By the people who did assist?
- Why is this important to understand as a member of the FGCU community?



What Defines You?

- Do you portray yourself differently in various settings?
 - At work
 - In class
 - Back at home
 - Out with friends
 - As a member of an organization
- Why do you or do you not portray yourself differently?



Personal Values

- In the space provided in your workbook, list the top three characteristics that define who you are.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- Why are these your top three and how do they influence your behavior?



Case Study #1

It is the end of the first week of classes and North Lake Village is having its annual movie marathon. There is a group of residents who attended and are watching the first movie. John had already seen the movies that were to be shown that night, but he wanted to be a part of the festivities. Midway through the first movie, John leans over to his friend Mary and begins making remarks about what is to happen in the next couple of scenes. The remarks are made to where Sally can hear them sitting in the front row. Sally turns around and yells for John to be quiet so that everyone else can enjoy the movie. John responds to Sally's comment by saying that "It is a free country and I can talk about whatever I want." Within moments, John and Sally are standing face-to-face arguing.



Case Study #2

[Academics](#)



Relating it to the SCC

- The Student Code of Conduct exists:
 - 1. to define the behavioral rights and responsibilities of FGCU students and registered student organizations,
 - 5. to protect the University community from disruption and harm,
 - **6. to encourage appropriate standards of individual and group behavior.**



Wrap Up

- Our actions will always portray who we are...always giving the right impression through our values?
- Decisions should be made in the best interests of the individual and the overall community.
- From time to time, this will cause you to be a voice for someone in need.



Out of Classroom Assignment

- This will be due two weeks from today's workshop and must be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct at studentconduct@fgcu.edu.
- You are to write a full 2 page reflection paper, double-spaced with 1 inch margins using 12 Times New Roman font. This paper must be approved before it is considered complete.
- Please incorporate aspects of the workshop in your reflection paper.
- You will also be receiving a link to an assessment of this Workshop to complete as well.



Out of Classroom Assignment

- Topic: Reflect on the specific incident that resulted in your assignment to the workshop. Were your actions civil? Did they have the best interests of the community in mind? How would you respond to a similar situation in the future that might challenge your personal values? Would you do anything differently? Why or why not?



Thank you!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Joshua Cutchens
Coordinator for Student Conduct
Office of Student Conduct
(239) 590-7900
jcutchens@fgcu.edu

So Where Can We Start?

1. Office of Student Conduct
2. Division of Student Affairs
3. University community

Having the Right People at the Table

1. Housing and Residence Life
2. Office of Orientation
3. Office of Student Involvement
4. Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
5. Office of Multicultural and Leadership Development

So Where Can We Start?

1. Office of Student Conduct
2. Division of Student Affairs
3. University community

Making the Umbrella Bigger

By working with MLD,
working to gain approval to
create a university video
on civility from faculty, staff
and students.

University civility
statements? - UNLV

Questions?

References

- Evans, N. J., Forney, D. S., Guido, F. M., Patton, L. D., & Renn, K. A. (2010). *Student development in college: Theory, research, and practice*. (2nd ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Forni, P. M. (2002). *Choosing civility: The 25 rules of considerate conduct*. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.
- Gaines, C. (2013, March 26). *Espn went live to a florida gulf coast pep rally at the worst possible moment*. Retrieved from <http://www.businessinsider.com/video-espn-went-live-to-florida-gulf-coast-rally-at-worst-possible-moment-2013-3>
- Stingl, J. (2013, August 6). *Mom tracks down 'mystery man' who gave son baseball at brewers game*. Retrieved from <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/mom-tracks-down-man-who-gave-her-son-baseball-at-brewers-game-b9969857z1-218524391.html>
- Weeks, K. (2011). *In search of civility: Confronting incivility on the college campus*. New York, NY: Morgan James Publishing.
- What would you do: *Helping strangers*. (2009, March 10). Retrieved from <http://abcnews.go.com/WhatWouldYouDo/video/aiding-fallen-7053177>

Contact Information

Joshua Cutchens,
jcutchens@fgcu.edu, 239-
590-7940

Lauren Paxton,
lpaxton@fgcu.edu, 239-
590-7900