Sample, Syllabus Statement on Civility in the Classroom

Students and faculty are full partners in fostering a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. Our actions should promote respect for both one another and the traditions of collegiate learning. Class sizes and emphases can create situations in which acceptable behavior in one course may be unsatisfactory in another situation, as for example when collaborative team work can lead to movement and in-class conversation, which may be totally inappropriate in a large lecture class. Texas State policy (PPS 4.02) describes general behaviors that are always disruptive. Examples of such behaviors include but are not limited to: making loud noises, speaking without recognition, making personal threats or insults, eating or drinking in classrooms, sleeping during class, using electronic equipment prohibited by the instructor or disrespectful of other students, using inappropriate or vulgar language, or taking other actions that others might find offensive, demeaning, or disrespectful. As the instructor in this class I will be the judge of behaviors that threaten the civility of the learning environment, and, when appropriate or necessary, I will bring such behavior to the attention of the class or individuals in the class.