**Sample Empathy Statements for Syllabi**

*Note: These are examples and instructors should tailor them to fit their own needs.*

**Empathy Statement:** Things are different now (during the COVID-19 pandemic) than they were. This is very real for all of us. The “social distancing” and transition to remote education is tough, and frankly it sucks. We are teaching differently and under different circumstances than we were, and you are learning differently and under different circumstances than you were. Please keep connected with us. If you have difficulty with the course content, assignments, deadlines, etc., please reach out and we will try to work with you as best we can. We want you to learn and succeed. We want to have a wonderful experience learning with you. We should be creating “physical distance” right now, not “social distance.” We are here for you.

**Statement on Mutual Respect and Inclusion in K-State Teaching and Learning Spaces:** At K-State, faculty and staff are committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive and supportive learning environment for students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. K-State courses, labs, and other virtual and physical learning spaces promote equitable opportunity to learn, participate, contribute, and succeed, regardless of age, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, genetic information, ancestry, disability, socioeconomic status, military or veteran status, immigration status, Indigenous identity, gender identity, gender expression, sexuality, religion, culture, as well as other social identities.

Faculty and staff are committed to promoting equity and believe the success of an inclusive learning environment relies on the participation, support, and understanding of all students. Students are encouraged to share their views and lived experiences as they relate to the course or their course experience, while recognizing they are doing so in a learning environment in which all are expected to engage with respect to honor the rights, safety, and dignity of others in keeping with the K-State Principles of Community <https://www.k-state.edu/about/values/community/>.

If you feel uncomfortable because of comments or behavior encountered in this class, you may bring it to the attention of your instructor, advisors, and/or mentors. If you have questions about how to proceed with a confidential process to resolve concerns, please contact the Student Ombudsperson Office. Violations of the [student code of conduct](https://www.k-state.edu/sga/judicial/student-code-of-conduct.html) can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/sga/judicial/student-code-of-conduct.html>. If you experience bias or discrimination, it can be reported here <https://www.k-state.edu/report/discrimination/>.

**Mental Health Statement:** Your mental health and good relationships are vital to your overall well-being. Symptoms of mental health issues may include excessive sadness or worry, thoughts of death or self-harm, inability to concentrate, lack of motivation, or substance abuse. Although problems can occur anytime for anyone, you should pay extra attention to your mental health if you are feeling academic or financial stress, discrimination, or have experienced a traumatic event, such as loss of a friend or family member, sexual assault or other physical or emotional abuse. If you are struggling with these issues, do not wait to seek assistance. (Contact information for campus offices, e.g., counseling services, is then provided.)