

FW Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244 student [REDACTED]  
From: WETTENGEL, SHARON  
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 7:23 PM  
To: MUNOZ, JOSUE; COAN, BARBARA  
Subject: FW: Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244

FYI.....

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 3:03 PM  
To: WETTENGEL, SHARON  
Subject: Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244  
Good Afternoon, Professor Wettengel -

I am writing to express my concerns to you regarding recent activity in my Philosophy class, The Great Religions of the World, as taught by Professor Paul Derengowski.

When I arrived for class last night at 7:00 p.m., Dean Munoz was there and after introducing himself as the Dean of Humanities, he stated that class was cancelled and asked us to sign-in for our attendance. Of course, that created quite a buzz and a great amount of speculation from my fellow classmates regarding the status of the class as well as Professor Derengowski. The reason for this speculation, from my perspective, is two-fold: 1) a classmate, [REDACTED], sent the class an email Tuesday morning with links from Professor D's personal web site as well as other sites, and 2) the uncomfortable situations arising from the previous two classes on Islam.

I had not seen [REDACTED]'s email before arriving to class last night, and was surprised after reading it when I returned home. I have read Professor D's personal web site and feel that Ms. [REDACTED] has completely taken his comments, as well as his teachings, out of context. This is the same reason that I believe the classes that were to cover Islam became uncomfortable, as the two Muslim students in the class did not allow Professor D to teach the class, but instead turned the class time into personal debate and confrontation with Professor D regarding their religious beliefs. During the class on 11/08, one of the Muslim students questioned Professor D's integrity, education and even issued what I believed to be a threat against Professor D personally. These were not students "standing up" for their beliefs, but rather students sabotaging the class, the professor and all instruction for that night. We never got past slide two, so Professor D wasn't allowed the opportunity to teach us about Islam past its historical beginnings.

So I was saddened to not see Professor D at his class last night and am now concerned that two radical students have changed the class that I registered and paid for, just like everyone else. Professor D is a very fair, and forthright, Professor. No other topic in this class has taken the tone of the Islamic classes, and we've covered just about everything at this point. I am angered to think that two students could have quite possibly derailed not only a great class, but potentially

FW Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244 student [REDACTED]  
a great Professor as well. I sincerely hope that is not the case, because there is another side to this story that you may not have heard.

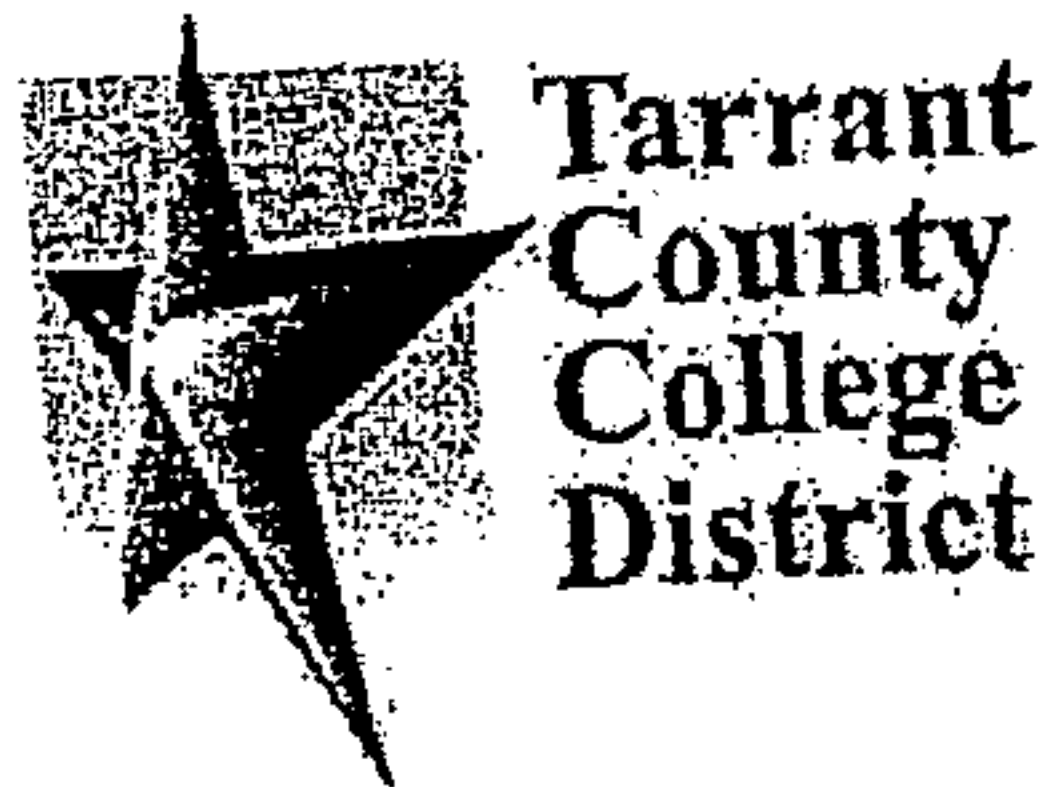
I enrolled in this class because I truly wanted to learn of all the world's great religions. But if two students can cause this much chaos and potentially impact the Professor himself, then where else can I learn such diversity if not at school...?

I thank you in advance for your time in reading my email, and am available at your convenience if you wish to discuss this further with me. In the interim, I remain quite anxious about tomorrow's scheduled class.

Best Regards,

---

[REDACTED]  
PHIL 1304-41244  
Tues/Thurs 7:00 - 8:20 p.m.  
[REDACTED]



# Student Complaint/Grievance Form

Instructions: A grievance is an educational or personal issue or condition that a student believes to be unfair, inequitable, discriminatory, or a hindrance to his/her education. Students who have a complaint or grievance about their Tarrant County College experience should complete this form and submit it to the campus department where complaint originated. Students should allow 10 business days to receive a written response to their complaint or grievance.

| Student Information |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Student Name:       | [Redacted] |
| Address:            | [Redacted] |
| City/State/Zip:     | [Redacted] |
| Student ID#:        | [Redacted] |
| Semester & Year:    | Fall 2011  |
| Home Phone Number:  | [Redacted] |
| Work Phone Number:  | [Redacted] |
| Cell Phone Number:  | [Redacted] |
| Email Address:      | [Redacted] |

**Complaint/Grievance Information**  
 Retaliation against an individual filing a grievance is strictly prohibited and constitutes a violation of college policy which may result in disciplinary action including dismissal/expulsion.

Name of individual and/or department against whom the complaint/grievance is filed:  
 [Redacted] + TCC SE Humanities Department

Describe your complaint/grievance in detail. Include date/s of occurrence (be as specific as possible). Attach additional sheets, if necessary, along with any documentation that will help describe and substantiate the complaint. Are there any witnesses who should be interviewed? If yes, list names and contact information. Failed the students of TCC PHIL 1304-41244 by failing to act responsibly on the behalf of all students involved. [Redacted] was allowed to threaten Professor Derenjowski in front of the class, with NO action taken. My documentation is attached, as I've tried to meet w/ Administration.

Students are encouraged to discuss their concerns and complaints through informal conferences with the appropriate instructor or campus administrator. Have you made an attempt to resolve this complaint or grievance with the individual and/or department involved?  Yes  No If yes, describe the outcome: (Attach any additional comments, if necessary)  
 NO outcome - my requests for meetings have gone ignored.

What outcome do you hope to achieve after talking to the appropriate college official(s)? Attach additional sheets, if necessary.  
 According to the Student handbook, [Redacted] should absolutely be subject to disciplinary actions. Prof D. should be [Redacted]

I understand that information contained in the grievance form will be held confidential to the extent possible. Grievance information may be shared with college officials in order to conduct a thorough investigation. I hereby declare that the information on this form is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation of information may result in disciplinary actions, in accordance with college disciplinary policies.

Signature: [Redacted] Date: 11-22-11  
 Student

Email to Rusty  
Fox, 11/19

On Nov 19, 2011, at 10:26 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Evening, Mr. Fox,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a student in Professor Paul Derengowski's Philosophy class, The Great Religions of the World. The purpose of this email is to request an audience with either yourself and/or Dr. Coan regarding the recent events that have taken place in this class and the subsequent leaving of Professor Derengowski.

I have tried to contact Josue Munoz, but was advised to follow TCC protocol and begin with expressing my concerns to Sharon Wettengal, which I have done, to no avail. I found on the TCC web site that I could file a student complaint, and I request your further guidance on how to properly file the grievance against fellow students as well as potentially the leadership of the TCC Humanities Department.

Since the beginning of this semester in Professor Derengowski's class, I and my other classmates have been subjected to constant class disruptions and interruptions by, primarily, student [REDACTED]. To Professor Derengowski's credit, he was able to manage [REDACTED], and occasionally other students who sit at his table and were encouraged by him to disrupt the class, until the evening of November 8, 2011. That evening, [REDACTED] and fellow classmate [REDACTED], both Muslims, entered class in an already agitated state because it was to be our second night to review Islam. I refer to "the second night" loosely, as the first night on Islam, as per the syllabus, Professor Derengowski was not able to finish his lecture due to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interruptions.

However, at class time on November 8th, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] began challenging Professor Derengowski as soon as he began his lecture, which was to provide both students his references to the historical beginnings of the Prophet Mohammad - per their request from the previous class - before lecturing for the evening. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] constantly interrupted Professor Derengowski, not allowing him to complete his sentences nor even allow other students to ask questions. This class was simply sabotaged by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was combatative and aggressive in his accusations of Professor Derengowski, stating that his educational pedigree was false, that he was not qualified to teach about Islam, nor any other religion, and that Professor Derengowski should "be careful in what he says about Islam, and he should watch himself". Sir, if this is not a veiled threat, I sincerely request a definition of TCC's definition of "threat" on campus.

[REDACTED] was in agreement with [REDACTED], and continually spoke over Professor Derengowski, stating that he did know about Islam and wasn't "allowed" to speak of things he wasn't aware of, even though Professor Derengowski tried to read directly from the Qur'an. Other classmates, including myself, asked both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to please stop, the environment was very uncomfortable, they were not allowing the class to progress, and they were interfering with those of us who sincerely wanted to

learn about Islam. Which is quite the irony, considering the great opportunity these two students could have capitalized on with regard to sharing about Islam.

It was an absolute travesty. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] did not engage in academic conversation or even debate, but took to slamming their books on the desk, challenging the Professor's credentials, yelling and ultimately walking out of the class a few minutes early, each slamming the door behind them.

Speaking for myself only, to say that I am absolutely shocked in how TCC administration has handled this situation is an understatement. I need to understand how our class was derailed, Professor Derengowski resigns under duress, and no action is taken against the two students whose behavior created this situation....? I request a formal investigation of these events and the actions of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I believe they certainly have a right to express their concerns to Professor Derengowski as well as TCC administration, however I also believe that the failure here is clearly on the part of TCC administration in the mishandling of the whole event.

According to Sharon Wettengel during our class "reorientation" on November 17th, when questioned by a fellow classmate as to TCC's procedures, Ms. Wettengel confirmed that 1) background checks are performed by TCC when a professor is hired, and Professor Derengowski has been teaching this class for approximately three years, and 2) TCC administration approves each professor's syllabus prior to the start of the semester. This confirmation further confirms that TCC has failed the students of this class, because the syllabus was already approved, which included references to his personal web site. Professor Derengowski is entitled to his personal web site and is protected under freedom of speech. The liability in this situation regarding the approval of the syllabus, which clearly shows references to two documents on his web site, again lies with TCC administration. I must ask again...why isn't our Professor completing the semester with us, why has our class been derailed, and why has no action been taken against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

Below I am posting a copy of my emails to Sharon Wettengel, for your information and to show that I have attempted to follow the established protocol. I apologize in advance for the length of this email, and greatly appreciated your time and attention to this matter. I am available at your convenience to discuss this further, and look forward to a response.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
PHIL 1304-41244  
Tues/Thurs 7:00-8:20 p.m.  
[REDACTED]

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Original E-mail

From: "FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES" <RUSTY.FOX@tccd.edu>

Date: 11/21/2011 12:06 PM

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Student Complaint/Grievance Form

[REDACTED]

I've attached a copy of the Student Complaint/Grievance Form.  
This would be the document you would use to formally specify and describe your concern, and the outcome you are requesting.

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, November 20, 2011 11:00 AM

To: FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES

Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding Events in PHIL 1304-41244

Mr. Fox --

How do I file a complaint against the students who have disrupted our class so negligably?

[REDACTED]

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Original E-mail

From: "FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES"

Date: 11/20/2011 08:22 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Concerns Regarding Events in PHIL 1304-41244

[REDACTED] the correct procedure for your complaint is one you reference here. As an academic matter, you would speak to the department head first, Ms. Wettengel. You could then refer the matter to Mr. Munoz, the dean for that area. And if you felt the need to appeal the decision further, you would speak with Dr. Coan, VP for Academic Affairs.

[REDACTED]  
PHIL 1304-41244

Wed/Thurs 7:00-8:20 p.m.  
[REDACTED]

Copy of emails to Sharon Wettengel:

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2011 3:38 PM  
To: 'sharon.wettengel@tccd.edu'  
Cc: 'Barbara.coan@my.tccd.edu'; 'Josue.munoz@my.tccd.edu'  
Subject: RE: Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244  
Importance: High

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Hi Professor Wettengel -

Thank you for taking the time to speak to me today regarding my email to you yesterday. I've been thinking about our conversation, and although I look forward to hearing you speak to our class tonight, I cannot shake the feeling that as a TCC student, I feel that the administration has failed me and my classmates in this situation. I simply do not understand how two students have been allowed to create such a terrible experience for everyone involved. And it seems like anyone trying to speak up, other than myself, has no impact at all.

I'll wait until after tonight to decide if I can continue this semester or not, much less register for Spring. You've failed us in your duties, and this is not sitting well with me at all.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 3:03 PM  
To: 'sharon.wettengel@tccd.edu'  
Subject: Concerns Regarding PHIL 1304-41244

Good Afternoon, Professor Wettengel -

I am writing to express my concerns to you regarding recent activity in my Philosophy class, The Great Religions of the World, as taught by Professor Paul Derengowski.

When I arrived for class last night at 7:00 p.m., Dean Munoz was there and after introducing himself as the Dean of Humanities, he stated that class was cancelled and asked us to sign-in for our attendance. Of course, that created quite a buzz and a great amount of speculation from my fellow classmates regarding the status of the class as well as Professor Derengowski. The reason for this speculation, from my perspective, is two-fold: 1) a classmate, [REDACTED], sent the class an email Tuesday morning with links from Professor D's personal web site as well as other sites, and 2) the uncomfortable situations arising from the previous two classes on Islam.

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I enrolled in this class because I truly wanted to learn of all the world's great religions. But if two students can cause this much chaos and potentially impact the Professor himself, then where else can I learn such diversity if not at school....?

I thank you in advance for your time in reading my email, and am available at your convenience if you wish to discuss this further with me. In the interim, I remain quite anxious about tomorrow's scheduled class.

Best Regards,



[REDACTED]

4IL 1304-41244

Tues/Thurs 7:00 - 8:20 p.m.

[REDACTED]

**LANIER, BILL**

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**From:** CORONADO, RICARDO  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 1:41 PM  
**To:** LANIER, BILL  
**Subject:** FW: Update of progress

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**From:** FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 12:50 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** CORONADO, RICARDO  
**Subject:** RE: Update of progress

The end of the semester does not negatively impact your complaint.  
Your grievance does not terminate with the semester's end.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 9:57 AM  
**To:** FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** CORONADO, RICARDO  
**Subject:** Re: Update of progress

Good Morning, Mr. Fox --

Thank you for the update. No, we haven't discussed my grievance, but touched base briefly on the phone last week as to the expected status of the resolution. However, I too believe that I was thorough in outlining my complaint and have no further need to discuss with you in person. I'm happy to allow the process to work at this time.

I do have a question, though. As the finals are tomorrow, effectively bringing our semester to a close, what happens to my grievance at that point? Does it somehow terminate with the semester's end? What happens to my complaints, against both the mentioned students as well as the mentioned faculty members, when the semester is over?

Thank you in advance for your time.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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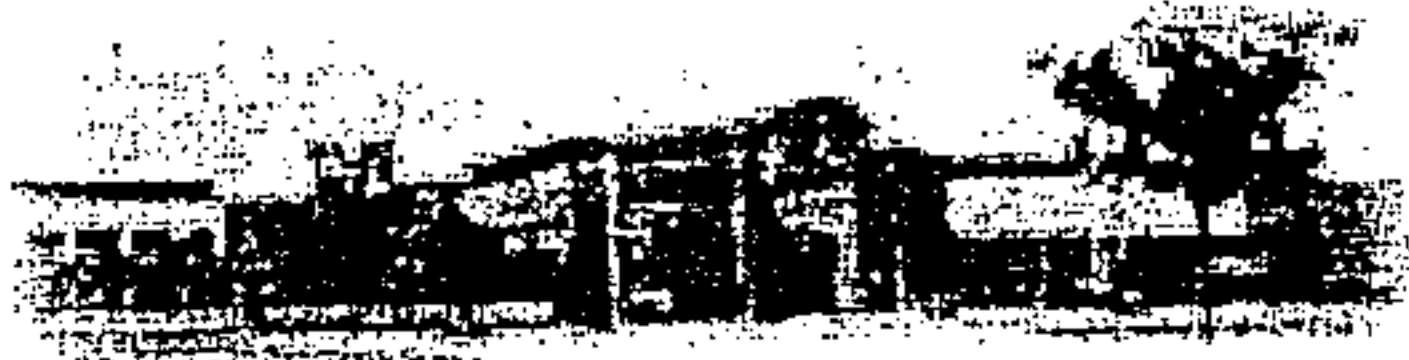
Original E-mail  
**From:** "FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES"  
**Date:** 12/09/2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Update of progress

**[REDACTED]**  
The college wants to make you aware of the status of your complaint. We will respond as soon as practical, but at this time we are still attempting to interview key people involved. Thus, we do not anticipate completing a response to you until we have all of that information. Because this potentially concerns multiple issues and areas of responsibility, your patience and understanding of the complexity of this matter, is appreciated.

You were thorough in your written complaint, and my assumption is it includes all the details you wanted considered. Additionally, I believe we've spoken about the matter by phone. However, if you still feel the need to review your complaint in person, simply call my administrative assistant at 817.515.3015, and she'll set us an appointment for early next week.

**Rusty Fox**

***Vice-President for Student Development Services***



***Tarrant County College Southeast Campus***

***2100 Southeast Parkway***

***Arlington, TX 76018***

***817.515.3015***

***817.515.3177 FAX***

***Rusty.Fox@tccd.edu***

**LANIER, BILL**

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**From:** FOX, RUSTY SE Campus SDES  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** CORONADO, RICARDO  
**Subject:** Update of progress

[REDACTED]

The college wants to make you aware of the status of your complaint. We will respond as soon as practical, but at this time we are still attempting to interview key people involved. Thus, we do not anticipate completing a response to you until we have all of that information. Because this potentially concerns multiple issues and areas of responsibility, your patience and understanding of the complexity of this matter, is appreciated.

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*Rusty Fox*  
*Vice-President for Student Development Services*



*Tarrant County College Southeast Campus*  
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*817.515.3015*  
*817.515.3177 FAX*  
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