

To Whom It May Concern,

Imagine you are an [College removed] student at UK taking a required class in which you were learning from an instructor who is actually a teacher who teaches. You are studying a fair amount to keep up with the weekly homework and quizzes and have an average grade of a B in the difficult 2 credit hour course. Despite the difficulty, you are learning most of the material and really enjoying the class so far. However your instructor discovers he is ill and has to quit with only 8 weeks left in the semester. Therefore you are given two new instructors who volunteered to help finish teaching the class. The new instructors will each teach for 4 weeks. Then a brand new syllabus is given to you, which requires taking a test and a final exam. Before you were only taking weekly quizzes and there were no tests or final exam. The quizzes stop. The homeworks were due every week as usual, and was the only thing that did not change with the new syllabus. You email the instructor and point out the fact that the original instructor promised the students a drop grade on one of the quizzes. The next lecture you get another new syllabus with the drop quiz included. You are relieved to get the drop grade, but you begin to wonder, how can they change the entire format of the class in this way? You go to the Ombudsman and ask, "How can they change the syllabus?" but the Ombudsman tells you that there is nothing that you can do now, because of "special circumstances". They say that you can only appeal your grade after the semester is over. This is bad news, but later you are relieved when you hear that the Ombudsman did force the new instructors to stick to the original grade percentages of the original instructors syllabus. You and the other students are very worried now about passing the course. Now the new instructors decide to extend the drop date for this class and this class only, but you chose to stick with it and try to finish the semester, because of the time and the tuition money that you have already invested. You wonder how can they extend the drop date? Is that even legal? However, you don't ask questions about them extending the drop date to the Ombudsman, because you think that at least it is a nice option for students to consider and extra tuition money is good for UK. Quickly you discover that the first new instructor is a poor teacher who holds some kind of personal grudge against the original instructor. You know this because of a negative comment that the new instructor made about how easy the original instructors homework had been. You are working very hard to learn the material, which is not being taught to you like before. You are basically being shown where to look in the book, but that's about it as far as teaching goes. In fact the material is presented to you in nearly the poorest fashion possible. Very few examples are given during lecture, which is typically the normal procedure for [academic area removed] classes. The examples are incomplete. He has very poor handwriting that is difficult, and often impossible to read. You email the instructor and ask him to please write legibly on the board, but although he responds and says that he will try, he refuses to comply with your request. To make matters even more difficult the instructor becomes inconsistent with the normal [academic area removed] symbols that are commonly used, and starts using mixed symbols for the same variable. The original instructor made learning easy, but it becomes obvious to you that the new instructor is purposely making learning very difficult and the class will now require all of your spare time. However, you work full time and do not have any extra spare time to study. You feel like the new instructor is punishing you and your class, because of his

personal grudge against the original instructor. You ask around and find out other students are coming to the same conclusion. You decide that it's just not right for students to be treated in this way. You begin to lose faith in the [academic area removed] department. You stop studying for your other 4-hour [academic area removed] class in order to pass this 2-hour class. After about 4 weeks the first test comes around, where before you did not have to take tests. Despite studying and doing all the homework and studying very hard for the test, you make a 73, which was about the average grade for the class. In [academic area removed] you know that this is virtually 3 points from failing because you cannot pass with a grade of D in [academic area removed]. You want to drop or withdraw from the class, but the drop date has passed and if you withdraw, you know that you will lose all of your tuition and time invested in the class. You know that you are in trouble and may not be able to pass the class. You are relieved that it is now time for the second new instructor to take over, because you have been in his class before and you know what to expect. Quickly, you are surprised and shocked when you realize that the second new instructor is even worse than the first. This is very disappointing to you, because you know that he is capable of teaching, but for some reason he is refusing to teach and present the material in a way that it can be comprehended. You talk to other student and discover that no one is learning anything and everyone is having great difficulty with the material in the class. You and your classmates study very hard. In fact despite being a senior with over 160 credit hours in three different [academic area removed] majors, you have never studied so much for one class ever. Despite studying the material with other students and attempting the new instructors homework, you cannot work the problems. You are in worse trouble than you were before with the first new instructor. You want to go to the second and present instructor for help, but you have been in his office before and were treated in a very unprofessional manner. You hear that he is refusing to help students even during his office hours, and decide not to waste your time in attempting to get his help, because you will have to take vacation time from work in order to see him. You go to the T.A. for help because he is willing to help after you get off work, but you become even more discouraged because the T.A. does not even know how to work the problems himself. The T.A. promises to email you the solutions once he finds out how to work the problems, but he never follows through with his promise. You are told that the second test will be given during the final exam time for this class, but that it will not be considered to be a final exam. You ask the instructor during class, "How can you give a test during finals week and not call it a final?" The instructor says in a very sarcastic way that "you will only be given 60 minutes for the test, thus it is not a final exam." This second new instructor has high ranking within your [academic area removed] department, and you cannot believe that he is treating you in this way. Because you feel that you are being taken advantage of, you become disgusted and completely lose faith in your [academic area removed] department. You continue to set aside your other class and study very hard for the second test, which is "not a final" even though it is given during finals week. Finally, you get your grades and you are very relieved to get a C and pass the class. You consider appealing your grade with an issue that has great merit according to the Ombudsman. However, you choose not to do so because you will not be able to conceal your identity from the high-ranking second instructor who took over the class and are afraid of retaliation. You do not want any UK

student to ever be taken advantage of in this fashion ever again, and decide to do something about it.

This is exactly what happened to me. I left out several other instances that would further prove my point, because they would require much more time for me to explain. Changing instructors is a rare occurrence, but this problem should be addressed no matter how often it occurs. The assistant dean said that they could not find anyone to take over the class. He told me that it was a shame and that the new instructors were able to get away with these things because he said it was simply a “their way or the highway” kind of thing. I find the assistant deans excuse for their behavior to be completely unacceptable. I believed that these instructors had taken advantage of us as students, and the assistant deans opinion and remark only proved it for me. I love the University of Kentucky and want students to be treated fairly. I believe that new instructors should be professional enough to adjust to an original instructor syllabus and general class format. I don’t want any UK student to ever have to go through what I was forced to go through in that class. That is why I want to suggest a new rule. I did a search for syllabus and syllabi in the UK senate rules and read all of them carefully. I am surprised to find that none of the rules address anything about a change of syllabus or changing the general class format. Please, please, use your authority to help. I beg you to consider my request so that we can stop instructors who take over classes from taking advantage of students in this way. Here I have given several suggestions for a new rule to show you my point:

If new instructor(s) take over a class, under no circumstances is the syllabus and general class format to be changed.

If new instructor(s) take over a class after the first drop date, under no circumstances is the syllabus and general class format to be changed.

If new instructor(s) take over a class, they must to the best of their ability, continue with the original general format and syllabus of the class.

If new instructor(s) take over a class after the first drop date, they must to the best of their ability, continue with the original general format and syllabus of the class.

Thank you for considering my suggestion. I hope you as a comity will decide on your own best version of a new rule, which best fits these circumstances. Hopefully, the rule can be worded in such a way that it cannot be misinterpreted. I included the drop date version for obvious reasons, because students should be allowed to drop after the syllabus is presented, just in case the course requires more time than they can handle.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

[Student]

[Contact Phone Number]

