How to use the Social Safety Slide

**It is important all students feel safe at the university, at our faculty and in our lecture halls. Not just physically, but also socially. This feeling of safety is one of the prerequisites for effective learning. Being aware of the social dynamic within your lecture hall is therefore not just a just thing to do, it is also didactically a smart move! To help you manage social safety and the jungle of expectations around it, we’ve made a slide you can show during the first lecture of your course. This document outlines how to use it.**

**What does the Social Safety Slide contain?**

The social safety slide contains six pointers that form a Code of Conduct for both you and the students. It also contains contact information of the people students can contact if they experience something that goes against this code. You as a teacher are the first point of contact, but feel free to direct students towards the other contacts mentioned on the slide.

**What about “in this classroom we speak English”?**

The slide also contains a text along the lines of “in this classroom we speak English”. If your course it taught in English, we recommend you include this on your slide. Based on responses on the social safety survey from last year, we know that foreign students often feel excluded because people around them start talking Dutch. By setting the expectation that everyone always speaks English in your lecture hall, you explicitly call upon all students to include each other (which is one of the pointers in the Code of Conduct, after all).

If your class is not taught in English, you are of course free to remove this call from the slide.

**Can I add my own pointers?**

Yes, you can! You can add these expectations in the grey bar of the right of the slide. We *do* recommend, however, that you stick with the social-safety theme of the slide if you do so. For example: if you run a course with lots of discussion, adding a line like “I listen when others speak” is fine. However, an expectation like “I come by the office of the teacher during the walk-in hour at …” is not in line with the message the rest of the slide tries to send. You can, of course, still have this expectation of students and communicate this, but please do it on another slide.

**So… I just show the slide and that’s that?**

It is easy to talk about social safety and a code of conduct in an abstract way. But what does “I include others” mean? For experience we know that talking in vague blanket statements reduces both the strength and importance of the message you’re trying the send. When you show the slide, we do ask you, therefore, that you make the message as concrete as possible. Give one or two examples of what the code of conduct means in your class. For example:

* What does “acting with academic integrity” look like within your course?
* How can students speak up if they see something that worries them?
* In what way can your students include others?

If you have your own stories or anecdotes on these themes, feel free to share them as well!