

The Top 10 Things Professors Hate to Hear

A student says ...	The professor may be thinking ...	What the student could do or say instead ...
"Can you go over with me what we did in class today?"	<i>I just spent an hour teaching it to the whole class — you want me to spend another hour going over it with you?</i>	Get notes from a classmate.
"I didn't know that there was an exam last week."	<i>Didn't I give you a syllabus that had all the exam dates written out?</i>	"I know I should have checked the syllabus, but I missed the exam. Is there any way I can make it up?"
"You know, this isn't the only class I am taking."	<i>This isn't the only class I'm teaching, either.</i>	"I'm really struggling with keeping up in this class. Do you have any suggestions?"
"I went to your office, but you're never there."	<i>Well, I did step out to go to the restroom. And then I had to make some copies and pick up the exams from the Testing Center. I must have missed you.</i>	"I'd like to come by your office this afternoon. Would 2:30 be a good time?"
"Are we doing anything important in class tomorrow?"	<i>No, we're going to sit and twiddle our thumbs. You won't miss anything.</i>	"I will not be able to come to class tomorrow. I noticed on the syllabus that we are doing an assignment in class — is there any way I can do it on my own?"
"I just don't get this at all."	<i>Then what do you want from me? I've explained it the best I know how. Can you be more specific?</i>	"I've been looking at the problems in the book, and I wonder if you would help me with this one?"
"I'm an A student. I can't get a C in your class."	<i>You haven't done what it takes to earn an A; why should you expect one?</i>	"I'm disappointed with the grade I'm getting so far in this class. Can you give me any suggestions to improve it?"
"I have to get a B in this class to get into the nursing program."	<i>Then earn one! I can't give it to you if you don't.</i>	Ditto.
"Is there any extra credit I can do to raise my grade?"	<i>If you need extra credit to get a higher grade, then you didn't really earn it, now did you?</i>	Ditto.
"Have the exams/papers been graded yet?"	<i>I just got them back from the Testing Center this morning. They'll be done when they're done!</i>	"Can you give me an idea of when the exams/papers will be graded?"