

*Revised Course Modification Letter 18 Mar. 2020*

Dear Students of ARTSSCI 2D06 / Physics,

The university community takes the health and wellness of our members seriously and we are interested in slowing the potential for spread of COVID-19. We are committed to ensuring the successful completion of the current academic term by all of our students. While the University has taken many measures to prepare and keep our community informed as the pandemic has unfolded, the university has made a decision to suspend classes at McMaster. **McMaster in-person classes and tests for undergraduate and graduate students will end as of Friday 13 March 2020 and no in-person exams will be held at the end of this term.** The following describes what you can expect for ARTSSCI 2D06 / Physics between now and the end of the term. Between now and Tues. 7 April 2020, you can expect the following changes with respect to course instruction for this course:

- **LECTURES:** We would have had two lectures this week on General Relativity (GR), before starting presentations next week. We will not be holding virtual lectures. Instead, by the end of this week, I will post on the course website an outline of my notes for the remaining GR lectures, along with GR-related resources for self-directed learning.
- **TUTORIALS:** Our last two tutorials would have been today and next Monday. We will not be holding virtual tutorial sessions. The problems and solutions for these tutorial sessions will be posted on the course website.
- **MEETING WITH TA's FOR PROJECTS:** Going forward, the TA's should be contacted by email; phone/video is also OK, but prior mutual arrangement is required.
- **TERM-2 PRESENTATIONS:** Unfortunately, we will not be holding the group project presentations virtually, since it is not a given that project partners will be in the same location, going forward (but see below for presentation assessment changes for Term 2).
- **OFFICE HOURS:** These will be held virtually at the usual times. During TA office hours, the TA's should be contacted by email; phone/video is also OK, but prior mutual arrangement is required. During instructor office hours, I can be contacted by email, or office phone without prior arrangement.

In addition, you can expect the following changes to the assessments used for this course:

- **THE CANCELLED QUIZ 7:** In lieu of writing Quiz 7 this Wednesday, next Monday (March 23) you will receive by email an assignment covering the topics of Quiz 7 and General Relativity. This assignment will be due on Tuesday, April 7 (2020), before 5:00pm. It should be submitted to the instructor by email through your McMaster email account. If you don't have access to a scanner, then clear images/photos of your solutions will suffice. Do not delete the sent email from your "SENT" folder; it will be used as proof of submission, if necessary.

- **TERM-2 PRESENTATIONS:** Your presentation assessment will be carried out by the instructor, with the slides of your presentation, instead of by class feedback. It is understood that your presentation file will not be an exact copy of the one you would have used for the in-class presentation (*e.g.*, the latter might have included video / sound / animation). The length of your presentation file should be no fewer than 15 slides and no more than 20. A PDF version of your slides should be emailed to your instructor through your McMaster email account by 5pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Do not delete the sent email from your “SENT” folder; it will be used as proof of submission, if necessary.
- **REPORTS:** The deadline for the Term-2 report submission is now Wednesday, April 1. The early bonus deadline is Tuesday, March 31. You should submit a PDF version of your report to your assigned TA – from your McMaster email account – before midnight of your chosen deadline date. Do not delete the sent email from your “SENT” folder; it will be used as proof of submission, if necessary.
- **FINAL EXAM:** Through the Term-2 Quizzes and the above term assignment, you will have been formally assessed on all the course content from this term. We will therefore not be holding an alternative final exam/assessment.
- **Changes to scheme for calculating final grades:** The April Exam’s original weight of 24% will be divided into sub-weights of 9%, 9% and 6%. These will be distributed as follows (in the sums below, the first number is the original weight):
  - Quizzes: 21% + **9%** = **30%** (still best 6 of 7, with Quiz 7 replaced by the assignment)
  - Laboratory Work: 21% + **9%** = **30%**
    - Term 1 Project report: 8% + **3%** = **11%**
    - Term 2 Project report: 8% + **3%** = **11%**
    - Project Presentation: 5% + **3%** = **8%**
  - December Exam: 24% + **6%** = **30%**
  - Participation: 10% (unchanged)

If you have a need for accommodations, please continue to communicate with Student Accessibility Services and keep me informed. In the event of significant changes to the COVID-19 situation, further changes may need to be made to this course. Please visit <https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/> for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

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