

Dear Students of ARTSSCI 3BC3 / Technology & Society III,

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 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 message describes what you can expect for ARTSSCI 3BC3 / Technology & Society III 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:

- All office hours will be changed from face-to-face to virtual (within Avenue). Extra office hours to be posted on 20 Mar. within the Avenue Newsfeed.
- A series of detailed instructions on how to visualize and manipulate symbology in ArcGIS will be posted on 20 Mar. within Avenue.
- Lectures on *Public Participation GIS* and *the GIS and technology in Natural Disaster Prediction and Recovery* will be posted on 20 Mar. and 27 Mar. within Avenue. These lectures will have a notes section to help further expand upon particularly important points.
- Instructions on how to download and install the open source software QGIS at home will be posted on 20 Mar. within Avenue. Please note you do need to use QGIS; it is only if you don't have access to ArcGIS. The McMaster libraries are open and have ArcGIS installed on their machines.
- Instructions on how to use the aspects of QGIS needed for the final assessment will be posted on 20 Mar. within Avenue.
- To simulate the discussion aspect of the course questions will be posted on Avenue Discussion Board based on the additional readings to be posted on 20 Mar. It is expected that everyone completes all the reading posted on Avenue on and contributes to the online discussion. The instructor will be active in the discussion.

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

- The Code Red assignment due date will be extended to 27 Mar. at 4pm. Please note this assignment is to be handed in digitally to the Avenue Assignment Box.
- The final assignment can still be completed with no alterations with only the due date changing to 10 April at 4pm. Please note this assignment is to be handed in digitally to the Avenue Assignment Box.

- Participation grades will be continually assessed through activity towards the online discussions. Please note participation is assessed not only the quantity of contribution but the quality.
- For those that have not yet completed their map seminar, the 2% of your final grade allotted to the seminar will be incorporated into the related written report.

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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