

Dear Students of ARTSSCI 4CP3 / Media Inquiry,

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 4CP3 / Media Inquiry between now and the end of the term:

Between now and Tuesday 7 April 2020, you can expect the following changes with respect to course instruction for this course:

- Rather than meeting synchronously to discuss the course materials, we will discuss these online, using the Avenue discussion board. You are still expected to complete the required readings for each class. Each week, on Sunday evening, I will post some questions/discussion prompts (akin to what we would have used in class) on the discussion board. You will then have the full week (until the following Sunday at noon) to review and respond to those prompts. You're also welcome (though not required) to post your own prompts if you'd like.
- Following our weekly online discussion, I'll endeavour to post some synthesizing comments on the Discussion Board, which bring together our thoughts and highlight some of the key ideas I hope you'll take away about that week's material. Barring unforeseen circumstances, I will post these on the Sunday evening following the initial posting of the prompts (at the same time I add the *next* week's discussion questions).
- All course readings and assignment instructions remain available to you on Avenue to Learn (in the Content section).
- I will be available for discussion and support throughout the remainder of the term. If you need to talk, please don't hesitate to send me an email. We can then find a time and means of virtual communication (e.g., phone, Skype, WebEx) that works best for you.

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

- For the remainder of the term, your participation will be assessed via your responses to the online discussion prompts on Avenue. You'll be expected to make at least two posts each week. These can be responses to prompts posed by me or by your classmates, and/or your own questions or observations about the readings. Posts need not be lengthy – try to think of them as roughly akin to a comment or question you might share in class. The participation grading criteria available via Avenue (with the exception of attendance) will continue to apply.
- As you know, there is no final exam in the course, and your capstones were already going to be submitted via Avenue. As such, no changes are needed in this respect. Please continue working on your capstones and remember to clear your working ideas/plans for these with

me by **Fri. 20 Mar.**, if you haven't already. In light of all of the uncertainty right now, I've also elected to extend the capstone deadline just slightly. Capstones will now be due to the Avenue Dropbox by 11:59pm **Wed. 8 Apr.**

- One group had not yet had an opportunity to lead their facilitated discussion. They will have the option to lead that session virtually using a web conferencing tool or to submit to me via Avenue the materials they *would have* used for their presentation (i.e., a full script/facilitation plan, including key points speaking to their analysis of the reading; links to any clips/examples that would have been used, along with an indication of what these were intended to accomplish/illustrate; discussion questions that would have been posed, along with a summary of the key points that would be made in relation to these questions). I will be in touch with the relevant students to further discuss these options.

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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