

McMaster Discovery Program 2020
Online Learning Activities

This past year marked the tenth anniversary of the Discovery Program. We had planned an in-person celebration of the course, with storytelling events and anniversary lectures. The COVID pandemic, however, forced us to change our plans. The Discovery community delayed the celebration of our anniversary and worked to find a way to learn and create community from afar. The Advisory Committee worked with professors Dr. Daniel Coleman, Dr. Anju Joshi, and Dr. Kim Dej to plan a series of videos, Zoom events, and additional learning opportunities. These activities were open to alumni, new students, Discovery volunteers, as well as family and friends. This was the first time that the Discovery Program has offered online learning. It was both a successful endeavour and a learning opportunity for future course planning.

While many people worked to create this course, the alumni of the Discovery Program were truly instrumental to its success. This engaged and passionate community worked hard to help develop content, watch lectures, and participate in discussion groups. Many of these videos have been posted online, and there is a wide range of topics: the history of the Discovery Program, resilience, activism, and storytelling, to name just a few. The full list of videos and links is posted on the Arts & Science website. The pandemic has been a challenging time but also an opportunity for reflection: on the importance of community, accessibility, and finding ways to be together when you are forced apart. These are lessons we can carry into future Discovery courses (and our tenth anniversary, which we are still planning to celebrate when the world reopens!).

