Dear HUMBEHV 4HC3 Students:

The university has taken many steps to prepare and keep our community informed as the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded. As you’re aware, one of these measures was the decision late last week to suspend in-person classes for the remainder of the academic term.

**McMaster in-person classes and tests for undergraduate and graduate students ended as of Friday March 13th and no in-person exams will be held at the end of this term.**

This decision was made to ensure that our activities here at McMaster are aligned with the social distancing principle so important to broader public health at this time.

We are also committed to ensuring the successful completion of the current academic term by all of our students. To do so, we have put careful thought into the use of alternative assessment methods and evaluation schemes that are fair to all students.

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

- Instead of having in-class discussions, we will hold these discussions on the course discussion board. Please see our Avenue to Learn webpage for specific expectations for these discussions. You will still receive a participation mark as described in the syllabus, with the caveat that your discussion board submissions will be used as the basis for your attendance/participation marks.

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

- Your reflection papers and final paper will continue as described in the syllabus, with absolutely no changes in value or expectations.
- About two-thirds of you completed the discussion facilitator assignment before classes were stopped, but one-third of you did not. This assignment will be assessed in exactly the same way as were the ones that were completed in-class, with the caveat that discussion will occur online, using the Avenue to Learn discussion boards. Please see our Avenue to Learn webpage for specific expectations for the online presentation of this assignment.

If you have a need for accommodations, please continue to communicate with Student Accessibility Services and keep me informed.

In the event significant changes to the COVID-19 situation, further changes may need to be made to this course and will be clearly communicated to you. Please also visit [https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/](https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/) for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ostovich