Dear Students of NEUROSCI 3J03: Visual Neuroscience,

The university has taken many measures 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. The following describes what you can expect for NEUROSCI 3J03: Visual Neuroscience between now and the end of the term:

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

- All remaining in-class lectures are cancelled. The remaining course content will be delivered via recorded video lectures and assigned readings. Video lectures will become available during the week of March 23-27, 2020.
- Course materials will be posted under the Content tab in Avenue to Learn.
- We will finish the Amblyopia Module; the Face Perception Module will no longer be covered.
- Dr. Piskuric will be available to answer questions via email (piskurn@mcmaster.ca).

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

- Problem Set #6 (i.e., the second Avenue Quiz) will be available from Wednesday, April 1 to Friday, April 3 at 11:59 PM.
- The revised due date for Commentary 2 is Wednesday, April 1 at 11:59 PM. I will also provide a 5-day grace period, such that you can submit your Commentary any time before 11:59 PM on Monday, April 6 without penalty.
- Your Opinion is still due on Monday, April 6; however, I will provide a 1-week grace period. Therefore, you can submit your Opinion any time before 11:59 PM on Monday, April 13 without penalty.
- The final exam will be replaced by an electronic exam completed online in Avenue to Learn. The exam will take place during the regularly scheduled exam, i.e., on Tuesday, April 28 beginning at 9:00 AM. However, the exam will only be 1 hour long and will contain only short answer questions.
• Your final grade will be calculated as follows:
  o The best 2 of your first 4 graded Problem Sets = 8% (4% each)
  o Problem Sets 5 and 6 = 8% (4% each)
  o Commentaries = 20% (best grade = 15%, worst grade = 5%)
  o Opinion Piece = 25%
  o The Case Study and Final Exam will be weighted according to one of the following schemes, whichever gives you the highest grade.
    ▪ Case Study = 25%, Final Exam = 14%
    ▪ Case Study = 20%, Final Exam = 19%

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 and will be clearly communicated to you. Please also visit https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/ for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Nikol Piskuric