Dear PSYCH 3AG3 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. The following describes what you can expect for PSYCH 3AG3: Aging 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:

- Lectures will now be delivered as files uploaded to our Avenue to Learn course-page. If Avenue crashes, they will also be provided to you in a Google Drive folder.
- Your TAs and I will be monitoring the discussion boards frequently to answer any questions you might have about these lectures. Please post to those boards so that we can ensure that your learning experience is as complete as possible.

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

- Originally, you were to be assessed using one midterm (which you have completed), one cumulative final exam, and weekly tutorials, which were to be assessed through participation and the submission of a small number of reflection papers.
- The purpose of tutorials was to help you engage in independent learning of the assigned readings. In order to continue that learning experience, I have elected to ask you to hand in reflection papers each week for the remainder of term. That will result in you handing in 2 more reflection papers than originally planned.
- These extra 2 reflection papers will be assessed as though you had contributed their contents during a tutorial discussion (that it, they will be assessed using the same scheme as we use for assessing in-class tutorial participation). Your participation mark, otherwise, will remain as explained in the syllabus, with the caveat that the number of tutorials relevant to the calculation of that mark will decrease by 2 (you will be attending 4 fewer tutorials than originally planned, 2 of which you will make up for using these additional papers).
In place of your cumulative final exam, you will complete what I am calling a “Final Exam Assignment”. This assignment will ask several questions about materials we discussed after your midterm (both in-class and in my online lectures), and at least one cumulative question. You will be given several days to complete the assignment handing it in, over Avenue to Learn, on the day your regular final exam had been scheduled.

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/ for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ostovich