Dear Students of Neuroscience 3SN3:

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 Neuroscience 3SN3 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:

- Previously scheduled discussion sessions and mini-grant presentations will be held online, during the scheduled class period, using Microsoft Teams, which is available for free to McMaster students, as part of Office 365. Please hold open 7:00-9:00 pm for paper discussion on Mar 25 and 7:00-10:00 pm for mini-grant presentations and discussion on Apr 1.
- No additional content (lectures) will be presented.
- No ICE questions will be given. The class period will be used solely for discussion of papers and communication/queries about the mini-grant.
- TAs will be available via email for consultation, unless otherwise arranged.

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

- A total of three (3) figure presentations are required, rather than the previously scheduled four.
- As many as two (2) re-write opportunities are now allowed. Individual students may choose whether to rewrite one assignment, in which case the re-write is due by April 2 (with standard late penalties), or two assignments, in which case the 2nd re-write is due by April 7.
- Students who choose to re-write one or two assignments may choose which assignment(s), whether precis or figure presentation, they re-write.
- The lowest ICE mark will be dropped before averaging remaining marks.
- The highest precis mark will be averaged together with the two highest figure presentation marks for the written component.
- No final exam will be given.
- The marks for the final exam will be redistributed as follows
  - A) The Discussion component will count for 30% of the mark
• B) The Written component will count for 35% of the mark
• C) The mini-grant will contribute to 25% of the Discussion component and 25% of the Written component.
• Students are encouraged to engage in peer-editing via discussion spaces on Avenue.
• Students are encouraged to communicate their concerns.

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,

Deda Gillespie