Dear Students of PNB 2XF3: Perspectives in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour:

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 PNB 2XF3 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:

- The final lecture and guest lecture have been cancelled – only TED talk presentations will remain, as this is the only significant assessment remaining.

- These TED talk presentations will be conducted online, using WebEx software. This will involve you attending a virtual meeting set up by myself through WebEx, by clicking a link that will be sent to you prior to the meeting. This meeting can be run through your internet browser, but you can also download a small program (just a few clicks).
  - Presentations will be scheduled to take place at the originally arranged dates and times (see the TED talk session times posted to Avenue), **except for those due to present on Wednesday March 18th**. These students will be asked to re-arrange to a new time.
    - I appreciate that in light of ongoing events, you may have experienced disruptions to your normal schedule. If you have a reason why you can no longer present at your arranged time, please let me know ASAP.
  - Presenters will be given the option to either share their slides (screen sharing via WebEx), or send them to me in advance so I can share them.
    - If presenters are sharing slides themselves, you will need to have one presenter controlling the slides.

- All students are required to attend all presentations, to ensure there is still a good audience for presenters. Since i-Clickers are no longer useable, I will need to manually check attendance using the WebEx program.

- Presenters will be given the option to either share their slides (screen sharing via WebEx), or send them to me in advance so I can share them.
  - If presenters are sharing slides themselves, you will need to have one presenter controlling the slides.
- If I am sharing slides, I will need to be directed as to when to change slides (e.g., saying “next slide”).
  - All presenters will need access to a microphone. You do not need access to a camera, but you are free to present yourself on video if you want.
    - *If you do not have access to a working microphone, please let me know ASAP.*
  - Links to each presentation meeting will be put up on Avenue in advance of the meeting itself. These meetings are scheduled for a specific time, so you need to wait until that time before you are able to follow the link.

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

- There will be no more quizzes – final grades for quizzes will be taken based on the quizzes already completed.

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,

Michael Jenkins