Dear Students of Psych 750 (Understanding Personality and Personality Disorders)

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 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.

We are 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 750 between now and the end of the term:

Between now and April 7, 2020 you can expect the following changes with respect to instruction for Psych 750:

- Virtual classes that involve student presentations will all take place via Skype or Zoom
- Continued submission of weekly discussion questions based on distributed readings

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

- The final exam originally scheduled on Tuesday April 7th will no longer take place. Instead, a I will release a final assignment at 9:30am on April 7th, 2020. You will have 24 hours to complete the assignment on your own and submit it to me the next day (Wednesday April 8th at 9:30am).

- The assignment will follow the same description that is present in your syllabus under 'exam' namely, you will be given 1-2 vignettes and your job will be to provide a working personality disorder diagnosis (please refer back to the syllabus for the full description). It is open book, so you will have access to your DSM and notes for this assignment. However, I do ask that you please complete the final assignment independently. We will employ the honour system for this aspect of the final evaluation so there will be no communication with each other while you complete it.

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,

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