March 18, 2020

Dear Students of PSYCH 3AB3/Adolescent Psychology:

The university has taken many measures to prepare and keep our community informed as the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded. As you are 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 3AB3/Adolescent Psychology** 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:

- **We were ahead of schedule on the course outline and only had one more chapter/theme to cover in lecture (i.e., Chapter 11; Adolescent Challenges).** This is an interesting chapter and topic, and I would encourage you to read the chapter for your own interest and learning but you will not be tested on material in Chapter 11.

- **I am available by email and phone if you would like to discuss any material in Chapter 11 and/or anything related to the course.** The course TA’s are also available during this time as well.

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

- **The original final exam was to be written in person.**
  - The final exam now will be written online (i.e., electronically).

- **The original final exam was cumulative and was to cover the remaining Chapters/Materials after Exam II (i.e., Chapters 7, 9, and 11).**
  - The online final exam will no longer be cumulative and will only cover Chapters 7 and 9 and materials related to those two chapters.
  - We finished covering Chapters 7 and 9 before the cancellation of classes.
• The original final exam comprised multiple choice and short answer format.
  o The online final exam will be short answer only.

• The original final exam was to be written on April 28th and 2.5 hours allocated.
  o Given these extraordinary circumstances, I am allowing additional time of one week for you to write the final exam.
  o That is, I will be sending you the final exam electronically one week prior (i.e., on April 21st) to the originally scheduled final exam date of April 28th.
  o Your written answers will then be due back to me by the end of the day on April 28th (i.e., before 11:59pm).
  o The online final exam that I send to you on April 21st will have explicit instructions for how to return your exam electronically to me by April 28th.

• The course weightings of the three exams will remain the same:
  o Midterm Exam I 30%; Midterm Exam II 30%; and Final Exam 40%

• I am available by email and phone if you would like to discuss anything related to the course. The course TA's are also available during this time as well.

• I will be back in touch before April 7th to provide more direction with studying tips and a review to prepare for the final.

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.

I enjoyed working with you this term. I wish you all the very best in the future.

Sincerely,

Louis Schmidt