Dear PSYCH 3AC3 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 the Honours Thesis courses (PNB 4D09, 4DD6, 4D06) 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 coursepage. If Avenue crashes, they will also be provided in a Google Drive folder you can access as needed.
- 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 three midterms valued at 20% each and a cumulative final exam, valued at 40%.
- You have already completed midterms 1 and 2 as described in the syllabus.
- Recently, most of you completed midterm 3 as an online assignment (called “Midterm 3 Assignment”), which you handed in over Avenue to Learn.
- The value of the midterm 3 assignment has not changed from the original midterm 3 value of 20%.
- The final exam will still be cumulative and will still be worth 40% of your final grade. However, its format will be changed so that it matches the midterm 3 assignment format. You will be given several days to complete what will henceforth be called your “Final Exam Assignment”.
- Thus, though there will be changes to how you are presented with testing materials, all other aspects of the assessment scheme will remain the same.
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