Dear Students of PNB 2XE3

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 2XE3 between now and the end of the term. Please note that this document augments the original course outline.

Between now and April 7, you can expect the following changes with respect to course instruction for this course:

**Lectures:**

Previously: Two, one-hour in-person lectures per week.

Revised: Two, one-hour online lectures per week hosted using WebEx. These will be live-cast during the usual lecture times and you will be able to ask questions. The lecture will also be recorded and made available for you to refer to in the future. I will post links to both the live-stream and the recorded lecture on Avenue to Learn.

**Course Content:**

I will cover the lecture notes to the end of Part 9. This will properly prepare you for PNB 3XE3 when you take it next year.

**Computer Labs**

You will be completing Computer Lab 6 independently which is posted now on Avenue To Learn. The TAs and I will be available online in WebEx during the normally scheduled lab time to answer questions and we will take up the answer at the end. We will record this session and make it available to all students. Computer Lab 7 is cancelled.
In addition, you can expect the following changes to the assessments used for this course:

**Homework Assignments**

Previously: Students were to be assigned eight take-home assignments which they hand in and are marked by TAs. This comprises 10% of their course mark.

Revised: The mark will be based on the best four of the first six homework assignments you have already submitted. Homework assignments 7 and 8 will still be assigned, but will not be marked. Full solutions to these assignments will be provided as exam study aids, and I will review the answers during one of the online lectures.

**Computer Lab Tests**

Previously: Students were to write two computer lab tests in the course, weighted at 20% of their mark. They have completed one of these tests.

Revised: You can write the second computer test independently during the time that you would have previously written it in lab (March 27th at 12:30) and submit your answers in a Word document submitted via Avenue to Learn. Your 20% computer lab test mark will then be taken as the best mark on either Computer Test One or Two. If you are happy with your mark on Computer Test One, you don’t have to write Test Two.

**Final Exam**

Previously: An in-person final exam weighted at 40%.

Revised: An online final exam hosted on Avenue to Learn weighted at 40% during the previously assigned exam time on April 23rd at 9:00 am. I will post details on the format of this exam before the last day of classes but I intend it will be as close in format to your midterm as possible.

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/](https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/) for up-to-date university information.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Bock

Dr. Nicholas Bock