Teaching Remotely and Redesigning Assessments in a Demanding Time

Teaching and Learning Services

McGill University

March 2020
Welcome

Our goal is to provide you with the opportunity to:

1. Experience engaging with others via Zoom
2. Become aware of resources available on the TLS website
3. Formulate ideas for changing assessments in ways that are:
   • appropriate for your course(s)
   • manageable for you
   • manageable for your students
Keep it simple.

- You may be unfamiliar with remote teaching.
- Your students may be unfamiliar with remote learning.
- Your students may have preoccupations that affect their concentration and their ability to demonstrate their learning in the assignments and assessments.
- **Keep well-being in mind** – yours and your students’
Resources for Teaching Remotely

Available and recommended tools

- Zoom
- myCourses

Support

- Zoom for remote teaching
  https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/zoom

- myCourses Essentials – log in at
  www.mcgill.ca/mycourses

- Instructor buddy system

- Student buddy system
5 Principles for Making Decisions about Assessment in Challenging Times

1: Simplify

Example scenarios:
• You had a second midterm that was scheduled for the week of March 16 ...

2: Prioritize

• You had scheduled a 60% multiple choice final exam covering material from the beginning of the term ...

3: Offer alternative assessment formats

• The last two weeks of classes were scheduled for group presentations worth 15% of students’ final grade ...

4: Consider extending assignment deadlines

• More at: https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/assessment-principles

5: Communicate
Considerations and Guidelines for Redesigning Grading Schemes

Example options:

• If 2/3 of grades are already finalized:
  • consider canceling the final exam and converting grade to ##/100

• If less than 2/3 of grades are finalized:
  • consider cancelling the final exam and replacing with an assignment to bring students to 2/3
  • change format
    • open-book exam
    • value of allowing 48 hours

More ideas on TLS resource pages:

• Select appropriate online assignment and assessment strategies
  https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/teaching-continuity-guide

• Considerations and Guidelines for Redesigning Grading Schemes
  https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/redesigning-grading-schemes
Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and late withdrawal options

S/U

• Grade not calculated in GPA
• Option open until May 22, 2020; students will know their grades by this date.*

*Check with your academic unit.

Late withdrawal

• Deadline for selecting a withdrawal from a course in Minerva extended to April 15, 2020 (effective Monday, March 23)

Teaching Continuity Guide for Unplanned Course Interruptions
https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/teaching-continuity-guide
Foster academic integrity

- Academic integrity statement on assignment and exam cover pages
- Honour code for students to sign
- Respect for copyright
  - Copy and paste a statement into your myCourses site. See: Foster academic integrity on this page: https://mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/teaching-continuity-guide
Deadlines

 Assignment deadlines

- If no final exam was scheduled, the instructor may extend the deadline for assignments up to May 1.
- If a final exam was scheduled but the instructor cancels it, deadlines for existing assignments or the new exam alternative may extend to May 1.
- If a final exam was scheduled and the exam is maintained, the deadline for outstanding assignments cannot go beyond the last day of classes, i.e., Tuesday, April 14.

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