

**Maximizing Peer to Peer Engagement in the Remote Environment**  
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**Comparative Health Policy**  
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*"Uh-oh, your coverage doesn't seem to include illness."*

**Professor**  
**Claudia Chaufan, MD, PhD**  
**York University**

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Prof. Claudia



By way of introduction...

- Years of “scholarly teaching”
- Eager to promote “engaged learning” (exciting students about intellectual journey)
- Obsessed with issues I teach about!
- Hit over the head by pandemic – forced to teach remotely!

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## Million-dollar questions


- How do I get students to engage as in physical classroom?
- How do I get to develop a relationship when I will never see them in person??
- How do I get students to develop a relationship with one another???

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## Overall changes

- ✓ Fully revised syllabus – as welcoming as possible!
- ✓ Welcome forum prior to first meeting!
- ✓ Make credit possible asynchronously but easier synchronously!
- ✓ (Most) assignments transformed for students to share their work
- ✓ Virtual e-lounge for students to meet
- ✓ Weekly options for extra credit (need 3 throughout term to earn 1% point)
- ✓ Flexibility, creativity, patience – deep breath before saying no!
- ✓ Undergraduate, former student sponsored as support by Faculty of Health – priceless!

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## Selected assignments

- Exit ticket forum
- Jigsaw online – Google Doc for steps 2 & 3 of jigsaw classroom
- Shop for insurance in the USA turned into a blog for everyone to see
- Extra credit forum

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## Virtual house tour

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## What they missed from face-to-face

- **Harder to remain motivated**
- **Harder to develop closer/personal relations, communicate through body language**
- **Harder to connect with classmates**
- A challenge I faced with online learning was how easy it was to lose motivation. I believe that motivation closely ties to concentration, and classes in lecture halls optimized this concentration.
- We only talk about assignments. No one shares private experiences / stories. I also miss to see the emotions, face expressions and body language of the fellow students.
- I [missed] how easy it was to connect with classmates when everyone was steps away from each other.

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## What they loved about remote/online

### • Flexibility

- ✓ Recordings
- ✓ Chat box

- I appreciated that virtually learning is much more flexible. I enjoyed that lectures were recorded as it allowed me to re-visit concepts and that I may have missed. I also enjoyed the chat box as it gave me a way to ask questions without drawing too much attention to myself. I also enjoyed having Hannah in the class virtually as she was able to answer question via chat box without me having to interrupt Professor Claudia or the class.
- What I valued most about virtual learning was the utilization of lecture recordings, as it addresses concerns around accessibility. Considering that many students have to juggle a number of responsibilities, it is often difficult for them to attend lectures in the time slots assigned. So, these recordings serve as the perfect tool for students to learn the assigned content at times they have available to them.

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## What they loved about remote/online

### • Accessible instructors

### • No travel time!

- I valued how accessible [instructors] made themselves for students - timely email responses, extended office hours, and even group meetings before assignments to discuss concerns.
- Lack of commute and constantly having the comforts of home at my fingertips!

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## What they loved about remote/online

### • **Greater engagement**

- I really loved online learning because it forces us to be intentional with our engagement.
- This class [was] very engaging and I had zero interruptions that I found a nuisance in other classes [where] people spend a lot of time doing silly and useless stuff. This class had none of that.

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## Would like to keep

- **Chat box [monitored by student volunteer]**
- **Google forms for group work within class**
- **Recordings**
- **Hybrid most preferred**

- Keeping a volunteer and a “chat box” where students can directly message. [Minimizes] distractions!
- Keeping Google forms for group work will allow everyone access to a [collective] activity.
- Recorded lectures for all my courses, one of the most valuable parts of learning during the pandemic

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