



Spring 2020

Faculty COVID-19 Reflection 21

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There has been a lot of adjustment with the mid-semester change to online. I think the workload has been slightly increased with the extra step of having to use technology to do anything. One of my classes this semester was already an online class that was set-up for the full semester, so it was nice feeling like that was a point of stability as I transitioned into online. I also reached out to colleagues who had taught the Intro to Soc classes online already to get help with resources such as PowerPoints and instructional videos to give to students. I had already been communicating with students via Canvas and/or Remind throughout the semester, so the transition to online communication was not a very big deal. It was a lot more additional work to transition the exams into an online platform. Though, there was a bit of pay-off there in terms of a simplified grading process at the end of the exam. It has been especially a challenge during this time to make time for progress on research projects, especially if those projects involve co-authors who are navigating similarly challenging expectations.

I would love to see a some more faculty development sessions talking about how to get a class set up to use Microsoft Teams, technology options for recording online lectures, maybe a session on the resources around campus available to students so we are well-equipped with information to pass on to any students in need of a variety of support.

I think in terms of personal support and other support for faculty, it would be helpful to highlight the variety of resources available to faculty, too. Things like technology, but also things like mental health resources. If we are continuing to teach online in the fall, it would also be helpful to have more of a heads-up, since this would allow for more planning in advance and prevent faculty from having to adapt spur-of-the-moment. I have heard some horror stories from faculty at other universities regarding pushes to be productive and accountability write-ups with research. I appreciate that JSU has not tended toward this trend and hope to have continued support to be able to make progress toward tenure. Along these lines, I hope we can count on JSU to be lenient on teaching evaluation scores and realized we've all been doing our best in these chaotic times.