1. THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING

Students in our program are currently facing, and will continue to face, an array of issues as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis, with broad financial, logistical, health, and mental health implications.

1. Students still taking coursework may not have the resources they need to complete the required work for their spring courses, e.g., lack of adequate technology, lack of good internet access at home, lack of library access, and lack of access to laboratories for lab-based classes.

2. Students studying, preparing bibliographies, and writing dissertation proposals for their First and Second Exams may struggle to move forward due to lack of adequate technology, good internet access at home, and library access.

3. Students who rely on Graduate Center facilities to work effectively may be struggling to be productive in shared living conditions, for many reasons.

4. Students’ caregiving burdens may have increased significantly, and students with children may be responsible for homeschooling.

5. Students who are teaching at CUNY colleges have been forced to spend substantial extra time re-vamping their courses into online formats with no financial compensation, and some were required to work during spring break.
6. Students who are developing dissertation projects are unable to visit field sites and labs for reconnaissance visits and preliminary data collection.

7. Students at the dissertation research stage are unable to begin or continue fieldwork, visit archives, or do laboratory research and have thus incurred indefinite delays in their graduate career.

8. Conference cancellations have prevented students from disseminating their research and making connections necessary to move forward in their careers.

9. Students may be suffering direct effects of COVID-19 in that they may have sick friends or family members, they may be sick themselves, they may have friends or family members who are first responders or healthcare workers, or they may have suffered losses of close friends and family members.

2. GUIDELINES FOR MOVING FORWARD

Here are a few basic steps we might consider taking together as we head towards the end of the semester:

1. Advisement - We encourage regular check-ins between advisors and advisees. This could be via phone, email, Zoom, or whatever correspondence method is preferred. It is important to provide a space for students and faculty to address professional and personal concerns, and this provides an opportunity as well to direct students to resources and services that may be needed. The Provost’s Office has asked for all advisors to meet with their advisees at least once this semester before the end of May to discuss short- and medium-term plans.

2. Coursework and Grading - Many members of the program do not view the CUNY pass/fail option as a useful or sufficient form of grade protection under the circumstances. Accordingly, faculty have already made significant
adjustments to their syllabi and have changed assignments in ways that will enable students to succeed in their classes despite the circumstances. Faculty are encouraged to continue to readjust their syllabus as needed, work closely with students to address specific needs or challenges as they arise, and make any new grade expectations clear so that students know where they stand as they head to the end of the semester. For their part, students should do their best to prepare for class, participate, and complete assignments. They should recognize the challenges faculty face in moving courses to virtual formats. And they should proactively bring challenges and needs to the attention of their instructors. We ask students to remember that course grades are now, as they have always been in our program, less important than faculty-guided research and preparation involving in-depth and substantive engagement with the faculty and with each other.

3. **Research** - Faculty and students alike may have questions about how to move forward in their research, how to fund it, or even how their work matters in a moment of such extreme uncertainty. It may still be too soon for students to rethink long-term research plans. But it is important to focus now on what you *do* have access to, what you already have done, and what you might still be able to do under the current circumstances. We encourage advisors and advisees to address these questions together. Students might consider developing a short-term plan or establishing a temporary routine to help them to feel empowered in the face of all of this uncertainty.

4. **Program Office/Administration** – The office staff appreciates your patience and understanding under the circumstances. Please continue to contact us well in advance of any deadlines, so that we will have sufficient time to handle your requests and process virtual “paperwork.” To help to reduce email traffic, please take the time to read all announcements from the GC administration (Provost’s Office, Registrar, the Office of Student Affairs, etc.). Since we are communicating almost exclusively by email, students and faculty are encouraged to communicate with the office
using their CUNY email addresses wherever possible, especially if it involves anything that will be forwarded elsewhere as documentation in lieu of signatures on forms. This is especially important for things like grade changes, exam or defense results, advisor approvals, and any official student request.

3. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Best Practices During the Epidemic

- This piece emphasizes the **Four Core Priorities for Trauma-Informed Distance Learning**: predictability, flexibility, connection, and empowerment.
- Esra Ozyurek’s “**Writing in times of crisis**” considers the role of academics during the lockdown, emphasizing the forms of inequality, injustice, violence, and human rights that are at stake during the epidemic and the ways that coronavirus is already shaped by existing power relations and inequalities.
- Faculty and students may be interested in **Eve Ewing** and **Lauren Duquette-Rury**’s suggestions for rethinking long-term research plans, especially in situations where students do not have access to all the texts/resources they need.
- The American Philosophical Association offers a set of helpful guidelines for dealing with research, financial, and professionalization issues as faculty support grad students during COVID. The link is here: [https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/04/06/supporting-grad-students-during-covid-19/](https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/04/06/supporting-grad-students-during-covid-19/).
• If it helps to read anthropology-centered reflections on teaching and doing fieldwork during the pandemic, grad students and faculty have written useful pieces here: Teaching Right Now and From the Field.


---

**GC Coronavirus Update**


---

**Writing Resources**

• **Early Research Initiative** - new student fellowship to support research during the January 2021 intersession: Over the summer of 2020, the GC’s Early Research Initiative will announce a new student research fellowship competition for research to be conducted during the January 2021 intersession. If necessary, the fellowship will provide students with an opportunity to rethink/retool their research in light of changes related to Covid19.
• **GC Writing Center Webinars:** The Writing Center is pleased to announce two new webinars - "Reverse Outlining" and "Revising an Essay for Publication - in addition to next week's webinar on "Forming a Writing Group."

Participants who RSVP will be provided with the necessary login information the day before the webinar takes place.

  o **Forming a Writing Group,** April 30, 4:30-5:30 PM, [RSVP here](#). During this time of social isolation, it’s more important than ever to cultivate a support system, both socially and professionally. Forming a writing group is a way to do both. This webinar introduces participants to some of the key elements for putting together a writing group that will succeed and have staying power.

  o **Reverse Outlining,** May 4, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, [RSVP here](#). When it comes to academic writing, the actual process of putting one’s research and thinking down on paper tends to derail even the best-laid plans; no matter how clear one’s initial outline or mental blueprint, things happen and, as a result, many people end up with a first draft that’s anywhere from a bit unruly to a total mess. In this webinar, participants will be introduced to a reverse outlining technique that can help them gain a clearer view of a draft’s current paragraph-by-paragraph structure in order to figure out what is and isn’t working, and thus to make a plan for structural revision.

  o **Revising an Essay for Publication,** May 14, 4:00-5:00 PM, [RSVP here](#). This webinar will introduce participants to the process of submitting an article to a peer-reviewed journal. It will cover issues like (1) the key elements of an article, (2) choosing the right journal, (3) understanding what editors and reviewers do after you submit (and the ways this knowledge may affect your revision choices), and (4) responding to reviewer comments if you get a “revise and resubmit.”
• **GC Writing Center**
  o Homepage: [https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/](https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/)
  o Quick link to schedule appointments: [https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/book-an-appointment/](https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/book-an-appointment/)
  o Online resources and events: [https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/online-programming/](https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/online-programming/)
  o The Writing Center continues to offer **individual writing consultations** and **remote companionable writing** sessions. Make an appointment today!

• **Remote Companionable Writing**: Are you a person that likes to work in libraries and coffee shops? Do you miss the feeling of being around people while you read and write? If so, you'll be pleased to know that the Writing Center is holding four weekly sessions of Remote Companionable Writing. Participants who join these Zoom meetings will be able to feel the presence of other people quietly working alongside them. The writing consultant who hosts each session will also be available to talk with you on a side-channel if you want to request their help. Note: Links are to different Zoom rooms, so make sure to click on the right day!
  o Mondays: 10 AM – 12 PM, Join us on [ZOOM!](https://zoom.us)
  o Tuesdays: 12 PM – 2 PM, Join us on [ZOOM!](https://zoom.us)
  o Thursdays: 1 PM – 3 PM, Join us on [ZOOM!](https://zoom.us)
  o Fridays: 10 AM- 12PM, Join us on [ZOOM!](https://zoom.us)
• GC Student Emergency Grants: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Fellowships-and-Financial-Aid/Student-Emergency-Grants

Teaching Resources

• Considerations for Instructional Continuity (TLC)
• Request a Tablet for Distance Learning
• CUNY Continuity Slack [cuny-co.slack.com] for people teaching online (support, questions, suggestions for resources and tools, etc)
• Remote teaching resources [docs.google.com] (started by Jacque Wernimont) for access or to share links, use this form [docs.google.com]
• Accessible Teaching in the Time of COVID [mapping-access.com]
• Bringing Your Course Online [teachingresources.hcommons.org] (Humanities Commons)
• Remote Academia 2020 [t.co], a Slack workspace for the academic community to collaborate on solutions and techniques for remote learning in response to COVID-19. Anyone with an .edu email can join. They also have a reading list [docs.google.com]
• How to Keep the Crashers Out of Your Zoom Event [blog.zoom.us]
• To request a free Zoom account from the GC apply through this link: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Information-Technology/IT-Service-Catalog/New-Zoom-Account-Request-Form

• GC IT - Take Advantage of Webex Services for Remote Teaching and Meeting: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=54385

• GC Teaching and Learning Center Resources
  o TLC Website: http://cuny.is/teaching
  o TLC Resources on Instructional Continuity: https://continuity.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
  o Teach@CUNY Handbook: https://cuny.is/tcuny-handbook
  o CUNY Continuity Slack Team: https://cuny-co.slack.com/ (sign in with CUNY email account)

Health Resources

• GC Health and Wellness : https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Health-Wellness

• Coronavirus Sanity Guide [tenpercent.com]

• Entertainment/Leisure/Self-care Resources [docs.google.com]

• GC Wellness Center Teleconferencing and Phone Student Counseling Services: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Health-Wellness/Student-Counseling-Services

• GC Wellness Center Virtual Workshop 5/9: Mindfulness Meditation/Stress Reduction Class:
VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: Mindfulness Meditation/Stress Reduction Class

Saturday, May 9, 2020, 11:00AM EST

PRESENTER: Beej Christie Karpen

Join Beej Christie Karpen of Insight Out Coaching in practicing meditation, and learn tools to reduce stress during this challenging time.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkduCpqD8pH9WmNCS_3P7YeWJvv5Q8feke

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Research

- Early Research Initiative - new student fellowship to support research during the January 2021 intersession: Over the summer of 2020, the GC’s Early Research Initiative will announce a new student research fellowship competition for research to be conducted during the January 2021 intersession. If necessary, the fellowship will provide students with an opportunity to rethink/retool their research in light of changes related to Covid19.

• Archival Research - Research Guides at CUNY Graduate Center's Mina Rees Library. See link below on the many archival and other collections available to you online through the Mina Rees library and the other institutions with which the GC partners: https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/archivalresearch

• Graduate Center Mina Rees Library Offers Only Remote Services Until Further Notice: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=54392

• GC Quantitative Research Consulting Center
  o Homepage: https://qrcccommons.gc.cuny.edu/
  o Quick link to schedule appointments: https://qrcccommons.gc.cuny.edu/appointments/

• GC Career Planning & Professional Development Office
  o Students can find COVID and other related resources on our homepage: cuny.is/careerplan
  o Quick link to schedule online appointments: https://careerplancommons.gc.cuny.edu/services/appointments
  o Quick link to ask a question: https://careerplancommons.gc.cuny.edu/about/contact/ask-a-career-adviser
  o Quick link to our webinar archive: https://careerplancommons.gc.cuny.edu/services/webinars
• Contact list for various GC administrative offices: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Departmental-Contact-List
• Details about new credit/no credit policy: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/Student-News/Detail?id=54603
• PSC-CUNY Updates page: https://www.psc-cuny.org/covid-19
• The Registrar’s Office: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Registrar has updated info and useful forms which can be submitted electronically.
• Electronic transcript requests: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Registrar/Transcript-Requests
• Update on Consortium registration -not really a resource as this page announces that they can't be processed at this time. But important info: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Registrar/Consortium-Permits

International Students

• International student info: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/International-Students

Miscellaneous

• Life In The Time Of Coronavirus [docs.google.com]
• From Crisis to Community [insidehighered.com]
• NYC United Against Coronavirus - Resources and Information [docs.google.com]
• Coronavirus Resource Kit [docs.google.com]
• FI Team Recipes [docs.google.com]
• How to Keep the Crashers Out of Your Zoom Event [blog.zoom.us]
• COVID-19: Advancing Rights and Justice During a Pandemic [law.columbia.edu]
• Request a Tablet from the GC for Distance Learning: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Information-Technology/IT-Alerts-Announcements/Detail?id=54624