

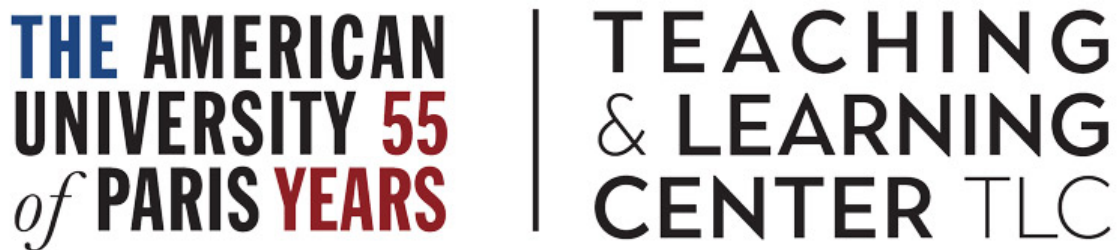
## TLC News - Flexible teaching, 13 March 2020

Teaching and Learning Center <tlc@aup.edu>

Fri 3/13/2020 4:21 PM

To: Teaching and Learning Center <tlc@aup.edu>

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### **Dear Teaching and Learning Center,**

Are the terms ‘remote’, ‘online’ and ‘digital’ beginning to overwhelm you and even grate on your nerves? What is this all about, really? We have entered into crisis mode, and we're being asked to be flexible. Clearly a bit of zen will help. And vitamins.

In this issue of the TLC News, after weeding through documents and links, we attempt to consolidate useful information for your teaching in these unusual times. Most importantly, we all need to remember that we are not going online forever. This is about going online temporarily. We are a small liberal arts institution with a low faculty-student ratio, and one of our major strengths is the interaction we have with our students and the interaction they have with each other.

So, the main questions are: How can we continue this approach to teaching outside of the physical space? How can we maintain community and dialogue within our classes? How can we ensure that our students continue to learn the course material?

Here are some thoughts we collected:

- Think about what activities students can accomplish.
  - What can they manage by themselves?
  - When would pairs or small groups help?
  - Where do they need your guidance?

- If possible, use technology that you already know or feel comfortable with.
  - Give students the freedom to make suggestions.
  - Teams is only one way to communicate with your students.
  - Google docs can be a powerful tool.
  - Whatsapp groups might be helpful to stay in touch.
  - Hypothes.is and Perusall are great tools for online annotation of readings.
  - Consider setting up a Wordpress blog (if you don't know how to do this, your students might!)
  - Selfie video reflections make it easy for students to check out the work of others
- Stay in touch with your colleagues and what they are doing.
  - Your colleagues might have ideas that work for you, too.
  - Talking through new pedagogical ideas can be helpful to find potential flaws.
  - Setting up a Teams chatroom could be a good way to encourage discussion.
- Think about how you wish to interact with your students:
  - Convey warmth and immediacy in your messages, to reassure students during this transition that you are available to support their education.
  - Think about what will help the students feel and remain connected to their learning.
  - Think about online space for the students to discuss their experiences during the current crisis.
  - Support classroom interaction, perhaps through a chatroom – students should feel that they are connected to others in the classroom and can talk to each other to discuss the class.
- Be flexible with assessment
  - Think about how your assessment approach might need to change in the online setting.
- Consider setting up online office hours if students want to have a one-on-one conversation with you.

We asked some students for their reflections on this transition, here are their responses:

“I think live chat is important, otherwise I think it will be difficult to remain motivated.”

“I'm also concerned that with all this change some deadlines for certain classes are harder to keep track with “

“I would ask that they remember that many students have family to worry about, so understanding their students' situations and priorities would be so so helpful. “

Please check for regular updates about teaching at <https://my.aup.edu/teach-remotely> and attend virtual workshops on Tuesday 17th. You will receive more information soon from the Provost.

We hope you enjoy your weekend offline.

Best wishes,

**Your TLC**

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