Update on Chem 370 Lab & COVID-19 Instruction

*March 13, 2020*

CHEM 370 Students,

In an attempt to limit the spread of the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and in accordance with WCU’s [guidance](https://www.wcu.edu/coronavirus/campus-update.aspx), CHEM 370 will cease in-person lab activities indefinitely. However, class *will* resume remotely after the extended break, and ***assignment due dates will, for the most part, remain unchanged***. Please see the assignment submission page for your section ([Monday](%7B%7Bsite.url%7D%7D/chem370/assignments/submissions-monday.html) or [Wednesday](%7B%7Bsite.url%7D%7D/chem370/assignments/submissions-wednesday.html)) to view assignments and due dates for the remainder of the semester.

For now, you should plan to finish your entire rotation project remotely using data I’ll provide (info below). Please understand that this is a fluid situation, and this plan is subject to change as necessary. If/when WCU returns to traditional instruction, I will consider additional, shorter lab projects so that you still get hands-on experience with the instruments.

Over the next few weeks I’ll continue to send updates and communicate with you via email, so check it routinely.

# How to Complete Your Assignments

*Please read these guidelines thoroughly.*

In the coming days, your group will be provided with a folder containing CSV files related to your project. Some files will contain data you’ve already turned in, and some will be new data I provide for you.

You should use these data to complete your lab notebook assignments, the four data analysis worksheets, and your group technical report by the specified due dates as previously planned.

### Lab Notebooks

* I will be grading and returning your first two notebooks shortly (the ones you turned in before Spring Break). You should finish these notebooks as originally planned with a Title, Intro, Materials & Methods, Results & Data Processing, Conclusion, and References.
* For the second two notebooks (those you haven’t yet turned in), you should complete all sections EXCEPT the Materials & Methods – omit this section. (**See** [**below**](#below) **for additional Introduction requirements**.)
* Resultantly, the rubrics may change slightly; however, the expectations are still the same. Your notebooks will be graded for overall thoroughness and clarity, and your analysis worksheets will be used to gauge your accuracy in processing the data.

### Lab Reports

* You will still complete your technical report in stages as previously planned. Future due dates will remain the same.
* You will still complete a peer-review assignment towards the end of the semester in which you review another group’s technical report.

### Instrument Quizzes

* No more instrument quizzes will be administered for the remainder of the semester.
* Instead, include a *block diagram* of the instrument along with a 1-2 paragraph description explaining your block diagram and how the instrument works in the **Introduction** to your lab notebook. I’ve added an example [block diagram](%7B%7Bsite.url%7D%7D/chem370/notebooks/notebook-guide#block-diagram) to the lab notebook guide. The points for these will count as your second instrument quiz. [You will complete two diagrams total - one for each instrument you didn’t yet have a quiz on.]

### Data Analysis Worksheets

* Complete these as planned using the data provided. As mentioned above, the included notebook rubrics may change slightly.

# Getting in Touch with Me

The best way to reach me is via email. I will continue to be on campus as necessary, though likely with reduced hours. If you must meet with me in person I suggest scheduling an appointment using [Calendly](https://calendly.com/drfischer/office-hours), although I really encourage you to remain home as much as possible.

At least for the first week back, I’ll be logged into Zoom during our normal class time. Zoom allows chatting/instant messaging and also allows screen sharing for programming issues. To get started, please see WCU’s page on using Zoom: <https://collab.wcu.edu/index.php/zoom/>. Once you’ve gotten it setup, you can find me by searching for “Al Fischer” in the upper right corner of the app and clicking the “Chat 💬” icon next to my name. If this feature gets used the first week I will continue to log in during subsequent weeks.

I hope you all enjoy your extended break. And of course please [take steps to avoid getting sick and spreading the virus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html) – not just for your personal health and well-being, but especially to “[flatten](https://www.vox.com/2020/3/10/21171481/coronavirus-us-cases-quarantine-cancellation) the [curve](https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca)” and eliminate strain on our finite healthcare resources.

-Dr. Fischer