**Adjustments to Course Syllabus to Accommodate Online Instruction:**

#### Stat 5100-001 Spring Semester 2020

My goal with the changes listed below is to create a learning environment that will prevent students from feeling any obligations to come to campus. I am very optimistic that we can make adaptations with minimal disruption to the learning outcomes.

If the online-only restriction for teaching is lifted in the coming weeks, we will resume in person class sessions following the adjusted course schedule. However, the new assignment due dates and point distributions are changed permanently.

**Lectures:**

The greatest loss in moving this class online are the in-class discussions. This class asks great questions and the opportunity to interact with and learn from your peers is irreplaceable. My hope is that by engaging with your groups on your final projects (electronically or in person), you can still benefit from peer-to-peer interactions in this course.

My goal is to post each lecture 48 hours before the class time in which we would have discussed the topic, as provided in the adjusted course schedule. Videos will now be labeled by topic, rather than by date, in the canvas media library. Because these pre-recorded sessions will lack opportunities for questions or discussion, I anticipate that each video will be around 30 minutes in length. It is your responsibility to make sure that you keep up with the video lecture schedule.

**Office Hours:**

The move to online delivery frees up class time for remote office hours. Because the recorded lectures will not provide students opportunities to ask questions, office hours will now be expanded from my current offering of three hours as follows:

* Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:30-3:30pm
* Fridays: 1:30-2:30pm

All office hours for Jared and I will be completed remotely using Zoom Meetings. Links to Zoom meetings will be provided on the Syllabus tab of the course canvas page. Please note that the Zoom servers may not be able to accommodate the influx of people moving to the platform. If Zoom ever fails, I will immediately begin watching our Piazza page to provide real time answers to questions.

**Writing Fellows:**

You are still required to meet with writing fellows for your project 2 papers, but these meetings will no longer be in person. The writing fellows are currently working out a solution for how best to meet with students. Most likely you will talk with the writing fellows on the phone, or simply discuss your paper via email. Please be watching for additional details for how the writing fellow process will work for the project 2 papers. For graduate students who choose not to meet with a writing fellow, it would be enough to have a faculty member review your paper electronically and email the feedback you received to Jared for proof of review.

**Quizzes:**

As previously mentioned, quizzes will no longer be completed in the testing center. There is software called Proctorio that can be used to check for cheating during quiz taking, but I do not feel it is necessary use this software in our course. Instead, I appeal to your personal integrity and ask that you:

* Do not use any sources to complete the quiz besides one page (front and back) of handwritten notes.
* Do not discuss the contents of the quizzes with anyone until after the quiz period has closed.

Note that the one-hour time limits will still be enforced for each quiz, so please plan accordingly.

I have also added a sixth, optional quiz to the course schedule. This quiz will be a compilation of questions on all course topics. Many of these questions will be exact replicates of questions that were asked on previous quizzes. There will be no restrictions when taking this quiz: you can use any resource you wish and may discuss your answers with any person. You will also be able to take this quiz as many times as you wish. Should you choose to take it, this quiz will replace your second lowest quiz score (remember that the lowest quiz score is already being dropped).

**Final Project:**

You are still required to work in groups on the final project throughout the semester. I understand that some groups will not want to meet in person, though you are not restricted from meeting in person if you wish. **Because it is harder to work in “online-only” groups, I have removed the requirement that each group make an oral presentation (using slides) at the end of the semester.** I have similarly removed the requirement that each group meet with me in person to discuss your progress on the project. The points that would have been awarded for these activities have been redistributed to other assignments within the final project category, so that the point total for the final project is still 200 points (or 20% of your grade).

**Other Assignments:**

All other assignments in the course will be administered as previously planned. Please see the adjusted course schedule for any adjustments to assignment due dates.

**Keep calm and check Canvas:**

The situation surrounding these course adaptations is continually evolving and I ask for your patience as I try to keep up with the current state of things. For the rest of the semester, Canvas will be the most reliable source for information and assignment due dates. If there are any due dates or assignment descriptions that don’t make sense in Canvas, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will fix them as soon as possible. Any further changes will be announced on Piazza.

Best,

Brennan Bean