

## Note for Online Learning

Sunny Huang

As an instructor, I feel deeply disappointed that I cannot meet you all in classroom every week. Everyone knows that online teaching can deliver much less than face-to-face interaction. I will try my best to give you good online teaching experiences to make up the loss. I hope to earn your understanding and cooperation so we can have a great semester together.

The key issues for better experiences of online teaching are commitment and classmates. Without these two elements, an HKUST online course is almost the same as a MOOC course. To help you better commit to learn and interact with classmates, here are several practices that we will implement for this course:

### 1. Real-time interactive teaching

It is extremely important that we meet real-time together during the schedule lecture time. Despite that all lectures will be recorded, from the past experiences, I find that students participate in the class at real time have significantly better learning experiences and performance.

Moreover, I do need your cooperation and feedback during the course. I may occasionally use polling, Q&A, and breakout room functions that require your participation. I will ask whether you have question after finishing teaching each small section. At most of times, **you are welcome to interrupt me for clarification question.** Of course, you can also use the chat box to put in questions. I will check the chat box after finishing each section and respond to questions.

If you miss some lectures, make sure you watch lecture video promptly before next lecture. However, you are strongly recommended to attend the interactive lectures.

### 2. Attendance and participation score

I include attendance and participation as part of course grade. The participation score depends on attending the real-time lecture, asking/answering questions, and giving responses. **The purpose is not to punish anyone but rather help you focus and commit.**

I will ask the TA to take attendance record. Please display your real name when you enter the class Zoom meeting. You are expected to turn on your camera most of the time. I need your face expression to determine whether I am going too fast or slow. You can occasionally be absent, be late, or leave early. But I hope you attend real-time lectures for at least 80% of the time.

### 3. Teamwork for homework

You are strongly encouraged to finish all homework as a team of **TWO students**. In case that the class has odd number of students or some students drop out, you can finish it by yourself.

The purpose is very simple. You have a group of excellent and smart classmates. Learning from peers is extremely valuable. It also helps you keep a good pace of learning.

At the beginning of the lecture, I will let you find your partner as most of you already know someone else from the class. After the first two weeks, if you are not matched with a partner. The TA and I will help you find one. You are encouraged to stay with one partner during the entire semester. But you are free to “divorce” and “re-marry” during the semester.

#### 4. Social media

To help facilitate interaction with me, the TA, and other classmates, we will use social media. I offer help from Signal ([signal.org](https://signal.org)). Please add me by searching my phone number, +852-51211460. In the first message, please write your course number and name (e.g. 5130 Sunny Huang). A Signal group for this course will be created. You can ask question in the group. The TA and I will try to respond promptly. You can find other students to work together on homework and answer others' questions in the group. You are also welcome to send private message to me as long as it is related to study.

Please respect the privacy of all group members following the ordinance by HK Privacy Commission for Personal Data ([www.pcpd.org.hk](http://www.pcpd.org.hk)).

Of course, you are more than welcome to contact me via Email and Canvas. All official notifications and communication will be via Email or Canvas announcement.

#### 5. Office hours

The weekly regular office hours are listed on the syllabus. You can make an appointment with me at other time. I am happy to chat with you to make up for the loss of missing face-to-face lectures.

I will offer office hours via Zoom, Signal, and face-to-face. For Zoom, waiting room will be used. You might need to wait if other students are talking to me. For face-to-face meeting, we can meet at faculty lounge at LSK 6<sup>th</sup> floor near lift 3-4. I may also book a classroom or use other venue.

#### 6. Exam

Please attend exam on the designated time slots. Due to the nature of online exam, if someone miss the exam, I have to write a completely new exam. This is extremely costly to me. Please be considerate to me. Detailed exam instruction will be sent out later.

**Please do not hesitate to tell me if you face difficulty and depression.** I might not be able to help you, but at least, I am willing to listen.

Student Guide - Getting prepared for your Online Classes with ZOOM in 2020 Spring by ITSC (<https://itsc.ust.hk/zoom-online-teaching/student-guide-2020-spring>)

Suggested settings for students account in Zoom by CEI

(<http://cei.ust.hk/files/public/suggested-settings-for-student-accounts-in-zoom.pdf>)

Good practice for students by CEI

([http://cei.ust.hk/files/public/good\\_practices\\_for\\_students\\_learning\\_in\\_zoom.pdf](http://cei.ust.hk/files/public/good_practices_for_students_learning_in_zoom.pdf))

Zoom starter guide for students by ARO

([https://rvc.ust.hk/mgmt/media.aspx?path=V20244\\_MTPC](https://rvc.ust.hk/mgmt/media.aspx?path=V20244_MTPC))