



Google Maps can tell a story.

Key in 2485 Euclid Avenue and see a lonely Julka Hall minus students with backpacks, ear buds and coffee clamoring to enter and ready to get back to class after an extended spring break. Reposition Google Maps' camera lens and observe Euclid Avenue. One of the busiest main streets in Cleveland is bare. No cars turning into Julka Hall's driveway to park or traveling toward downtown to unknown destinations.

The novel coronavirus or COVID-19 has led to the closing of the Cleveland State University campus at least until May 8th, but education has not ceased. Instead of sitting in a classroom, students are being taught remotely in the safety of their homes.

Please know that faculty and staff in the Department of Curriculum and Foundations continue to be invested in providing a quality education to its students. Spring break was extended a week to give faculty the chance to adjust their syllabi from face-to-face lessons to online course work. All students returned to class – online – Monday, March 23rd.

We have received a lot of support also from the director of the Center for Educational Technologies, Claire Grantier, and the staff at CSU's e-Learning Department. Also, faculty-sponsored tutorial sessions have provided support in using educational technologies. Jennifer

Batton and Melanie Caughey taught two sessions on Zoom. Elena Andrei from the department of Teacher Education provided an online session on Blackboard features.

Many faculty offered creative ways for accommodating students for these challenging times:

- Instructors have begun this first week of alternative instruction through Blackboard, allowing time so students have a chance to get used to the new online format from face-to-face courses. Some instructors are using all asynchronous learning and others are including some synchronous learning so students and faculty can be together for a period of instruction. Instructors often begin each week on Blackboard with an outline of course objectives and tasks for the week's module along with an explanation of how to do each one.
- Some instructors teach their classes on Zoom, a video and telephone conference program. Through Zoom, students can also form breakout groups. Some assignments involve using Google Doc and other shared documents.
- Instructors have also explored using Zoom for micro teaching assignments. After reviewing the Ohio Department of Education's standards and benchmarks, each student might then design a class lesson to teach. That lesson plan would be based on the discipline the student chooses to teach.
- In terms of creative curricular responses, students who are no longer able to be in clinical rotations have in some cases used alternative types of observations, such as observing case studies through YouTube.com. One graduate research course is looking at the pandemic experience as the focus in practicing research skills and learning about qualitative research methods.
- Faculty members have polled students to determine if the online format is working for the students. For example, some have asked were the adjustments to the syllabi helpful in making a smooth transition from face-to-face to online courses?
- One of the benefits of working at home is being comforted by pets. Cats seem to be the most popular among Curriculum and Foundations' faculty. They have become great stress relievers during this pandemic.

Students are encouraged to contact their instructors with questions and concerns about courses. To stay up to date on CSU's response to COVID-19, please monitor the university's Web site.

The CSU community is following Governor Mike DeWine's orders for students and employees of universities, K-12 schools and businesses to "stay at home" in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At press time there are 416,686 confirmed cases and 18,589 deaths worldwide according to the World Health Organization. The United States has 51,914 confirmed cases and 673 deaths.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, there are 702 confirmed cases in the state and 10 deaths.

Hopefully soon we will look back on this extraordinary moment in human history with gratitude for the actions taken, that while not without challenge, kept so many of us safe. We feel gratitude as well for the technology that has enabled us to keep in touch without being able to all be in the same room. And for realizing we can stay in touch without touching!

Sending smiles and virtual hugs until we can be together again.



Sharon Jefferson, Secretary, Department of Curriculum and Foundations