

Dear CS335 Students,

Concerning the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the sudden shift to online classes, I can only imagine what many of you are feeling. Please know that it is my goal to continue to facilitate **your learning** for the rest of the semester, help you understand the fundamentals of machine learning, and to do so in a manner that is supportive and flexible given the severity of this crisis

Here are the following changes to our class:

- Every week, I will record two video lectures and post these to the course webpage by midnight on Sunday. The video lectures will have a similar feel to the in-class lectures but interactive "think-pair-share" and "cold call" exercises will be replaced with "questions" in which students will be asked to pause the video and work through the given questions.
- On Thursdays, I will facilitate 1-hour **recitations** with groups of 3-5 students. Please fill out [this form](#) to provide me with information to schedule recitations.
 - Recitations will happen regularly every week via video conferencing (Zoom).
 - Students will be expected to have watched both video lectures before recitation and have answered the given "questions" from the slides. Answers to the lecture questions will be given during recitation.
 - Students will also be expected to bring to recitation 2+ questions that they have from the lectures. This will be a chance for you to ask me questions and for me to gauge how you learned from the lecture.
 - I will do my best to schedule project groups in the same recitation period so that students can also ask questions about the project.
- Recitations will replace office hours, but students seeking additional help should email me to schedule one-on-one virtual office hours.
- Fourth-hours will be cancelled and no equivalent is scheduled at this time.
- I am cancelling the **Celebration of Learning 2**. The 10% of your grade that was supposed to be Celebration of Learning 2 will be replaced with a recitation participation grade.
- **Make-up recitation documents:** If students are not able to make a recitation (due to circumstances such as an illness, technology malfunction, etc.) they will be able to make up that recitation by submitting a one-page document that includes (a) their work and answers for the questions from the two lectures and (b) 2+ written questions the students had after watching the lectures. The make-up recitation documents are due by the end of the semester. Please send these to the instructor via email.
- I am still undecided on the format of the project final presentations but will update you in the next few weeks.
- Please see <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/health/coronavirus#academics> for frequently asked questions about academic changes due to COVID-19. A reminder that, "Due to this semester's exigent circumstances, you will have an option, after your letter grades are posted at the end of the semester but only until June 30, 2020, to elect the Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grading option in one or all of your Spring 2020 Mount Holyoke courses."

Your safety and health is of the utmost priority during this crisis so please communicate with me any problems you might encounter (academic or personal) and we will try to manage these as best we can.

Best,
Katherine