Welcome to Our Brave New World Part Two: Spring 2021

The ExCollege is known for innovation, and also for re-examining and retooling our approach to participatory education when circumstances demand it. In other words, we've learned a thing or two about virtual learning and socially-distanced classrooms since the fall semester began. We're proud that we continue to offer so many in-person experiences, and at the same time we recognize that the hybrid classroom – with some people in the room and some attending virtually – has its challenges for both students and instructors.

We've concluded that for the vast majority of our small, interactive courses the experience will be better with **entirely in-person** or **entirely virtual** attendance. You'll find many new courses in both categories for Spring, all addressing issues critical to understanding our world, from race and gender studies, to fast-changing health and technology applications.

Here's a quick description of what these teaching modalities look like in the ExCollege:

1. **Virtual**. These are courses that will be taught entirely online. Sometimes activities will be done synchronously, sometimes asynchronously. In all cases, virtual courses will make extensive use of such tools as Canvas and Zoom to engage students and foster discussion. (Canvas as the main platform for media, discussions, and group projects is encouraged.) On-campus and remote students may register.

2. **In-Person**. On-campus students only (as opposed to fully remote) may register for these courses. No more than 20 students will be enrolled. The majority of class meetings are planned as in-person, but at the instructor's discretion some class sessions may be better suited to a virtual format. Canvas will still be an essential aspect of in-person courses as a platform for media, discussions, and group projects.

   Please Note: students and faculty attending class in person will have agreed to wear masks, maintain appropriate social distancing, and follow all cleaning guidelines.

Stay safe and healthy!

Howard

Howard Woolf
Director, The Experimental College