

## English Department Teaching FAQ, AY 21-22

First, **please read** the [CTL FAQ](#) on AY 21-22 teaching.

### **Can I hold class outdoors or in other spaces?**

Yes, definitely. Just work it out with your students.

### **Can students demand to Zoom into class for illness/quarantine?**

No. Most classrooms no longer have the cameras that were installed for Flex@Pitt last year (see the CTL FAQ for a list of classrooms with Zoom Room tech). The technical logistics are impossible this year to accommodate remote synchronous participation (ie, Zoom), and faculty are not required to accommodate anything other than in-person instruction without a DRS letter (and in fact *cannot* provide remote instruction without a DRS/provost mandate, with the exception of typical brief make-up work for missed classes). If you receive a DRS letter about "remote class participation," consider all the ways you facilitated that before the pandemic: written work, independent assignments, meeting one-on-one with the student outside of class. See the Teaching Guide for more on how to handle absences for illness (including quarantine), but simply put: recall your long-standing expertise on these matters.

Note that our departmental advice on recording differs from CTL's advice. We trust your judgment and are available for consultation.

### **What if a student is sick or has to isolate or quarantine?**

This will be handled as any medical issue has been in the past, and you can work out the arrangements with the student and/or their advisor, DRS, and the undergraduate dean's office, as the case may be.

### **Should I be more lenient about attendance or deadlines this year?**

This is up to you. As always, we should respect students and treat them with kindness. And many of them are going through more stress than usual. But DRS and the student's advisor (if relevant) will help them work out any significant accommodations, so you do not need to adjudicate whether a student is "sick enough," etc.

### **What happens if I have a cold or a minor illness that isn't a COVID-19, but I still am too sick to teach?**

If you are unable to teach your class in person because you're not feeling well, you can cancel a class with best judgment or ask a colleague directly to sub in for you. If you anticipate being away for a longer period of time, or if you don't have a colleague you're comfortable asking, you may contact your program admins to find you a sub. For longer periods of time, contact the front office about medical leave or other arrangements.

### **What happens if a student isn't wearing a mask?**

See the CTL FAQ response to this. Generally speaking, students will need to swipe into classroom buildings and wear masks to enter. Since our classrooms are not the first point of enforcement, this is unlikely to be a problem. If a student isn't wearing a mask properly, then we might ask them to place it properly. If they do not or cannot, we can ask them to leave. You may want to bring a couple of disposable masks to class for a student to use in case of a mask malfunction. Please note that face shields are not acceptable alternatives to masks according to Pitt policy, unless there is a medical exemption.

**Can I hold my office hours and/or student conferences virtually?**

Yes; this is at faculty discretion because it is not a class and does not affect the delivery of the course.

**Can we have guest speakers in class?**

If they're from Pitt, yes. If not, then they will need a [guest pass](#). All guests have to follow Pitt's vaccination/testing requirements and mask mandate.

**Can I assign small group activities in my class if it requires students to be in closer proximity?**

We suggest giving your students a survey (via Canvas) to ask about their comfort level with small group work in the classroom. If there are some who are not comfortable, perhaps they can do group work with other students through a shared google doc or collaborative video presentation (these can be created by students using Zoom or other apps/platforms).