Establish a Sense of Connection

- Create a sense of your presence with a personal biography and photo/video. (1, 2)
- Create a Discussion Forum for student introductions and encourage sharing of pictures/videos, pronouns, personal interests (e.g., music, movies, books). (3)
- Invite students to meet with you in small groups or individually at the beginning of the semester. (4)
- Hold office hours using Brightspace Online Rooms, WebEx Office, or Navigate tools. (1)
- Give students a variety of options to connect to their classmates and to you, respecting differing needs for privacy. (5, 6)

Supporting resources:
1. Communication and Engagement Resource
2. Instructor Presence in an Online Classroom
3. Using the Discussion tool in Brightspace
4. Using the Groups tool in Brightspace
5. Privacy in Remote Teaching
6. MUN’s Privacy Policy

Develop a Caring and Inclusive Environment

- Begin virtual classes with a check-in about students’ well-being.
- Greet or call students by name whenever possible. You can check with students individually to confirm correct pronunciation.
- When you introduce yourself, include your pronouns and invite students to share their pronouns.
- Provide a syllabus that clearly lays out a schedule and expectations for the semester. (1)
- Provide students with clear guidance on how and when they can contact you, and how long they may expect to wait for a response. (1)
- Survey students about their needs and concerns at the beginning of the semester and follow up to see what accommodations or alternatives they may need. (2)
- Offer choice to students, such as a variety of options for assessments, whenever possible. (3, 4)
- Provide a transcript or closed-captioning for video lectures. (3, 4)
- Provide information to students on supports available at Memorial. (5, 6, 7, 8)

Supporting resources:
1. MUN’s Course Syllabus Requirement
2. Student Remote Experience Survey, Winter 2021
3. Accessible Remote Teaching Guidelines
4. MUN’s Accessibility Policy
5. MUN Student Life
6. Trans and Gender Diverse Student Guide
7. Indigenous Student Resource Centre
8. MUN’s The Blundon Centre
Encourage Students to Work Together

- Create a Discussion Forum for students to ask any course-related question. (1,2)
- Use the Twitter widget in Brightspace to facilitate class dialogue. (3)
- Engage students to engage in collaborative notetaking or building summary tables or mind maps on course concepts. (4)
- Include peer feedback in assignments using PeerScholar or ePortfolio. (5,6)
- Have students lead group discussions in breakout rooms, assigning roles of moderator, recorder, timekeeper, reporter.
- Encourage students to interact using the chat feature in Brightspace.

Supporting resources:
1. Using the Discussion tool in Brightspace
2. Using the Groups tool in Brightspace
3. Twitter Instructions
4. Collaborative Notetaking
5. Peer Scholar
6. ePortfolio

Foster a Wider Sense of Belonging in the Broader Community

- Encourage students to take part in remote campus events or webinars. (1)
- Share relevant campus news stories with the class. (2)
- Share links to relevant community events or webinars.
- Share links to current media pieces relevant to course materials.
- Invite guest speakers from community organizations into your course.

Supporting resources:
1. Using the News Announcement tool in Brightspace
2. MUN Gazette

Additional Resources

- Recorded Webinar on Building Community in Remote Learning
- Improving Online Communication
- Universal Design for Learning Guidelines

Have more questions about creating community in your remote course? Contact CITL’s Support Centre.

citl.mun.ca/support