

Online Learning Plan

The key ideas are to build a community within the students attending the courses and to ensure that they interact with the Professor and TA and ask questions.

Lecture Strategy: online material in the form of latex notes and powerpoints will be distributed in advance (the week before the lecture). The lectures will be given by the Professor either by writing on a whiteboard (for mathematical presentations) or by powerpoints (for showing images). The lectures will be divided into two periods of roughly half an hour with two question-and-answering sessions of five-ten minutes each (after the first and second half-hour periods). The lectures will be given on zoom (with Microsoft Team as a backup) and students can use the chat function (monitored by the TA) to ask questions while the professor is speaking.

To help build a community for the course and to ensure enough questions, during the Q&A session, the students will be divided into groups during the first week (randomly, but taking into account time zones). There will be five or six groups depending on course enrolment with roughly six students per group. Students can switch between groups if they can identify people in other groups who are willing to swap. Each group will have a nominated leader for each lecture (after the first week) and it will be the responsibility of each leader that their groups ask at least one question per lecture during the Q&A sessions. These questions can be asked by any of the group members, but, by default by the group leader. This will be treated as additional homework and students will be awarded participation points for the questions they ask during the lectures and also for questions posted and answers given on Piazza (see below).

We encourage students to discuss homework together, but the submitted homework must be written by the students individually (significant overlap will be flagged following JHU policies).

There will be regular TA/CA hours where students can interact with the TA online. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the TA/CA in advance (see course website) if they will be attending to enable the TA/CA to plan effectively. In addition, we strongly encourage students to post questions and give answers on Piazza (participation points will be given).. The TA and the CA will monitor Piazza and give answers within forty-eight hours.

Online courses are work in progress so we encourage students to give us feedback about the course and make suggestions for how we can do better. Ideally, these suggestions should be posted on Piazza, to enable all members of the class to see them.

We realize that online education, and the covid-19 situation, can cause many problems. So for issues which are not directly course-related, we recommend students to the appropriate JHU student services <https://homewoodgrad.jhu.edu/student-services/> COVID specific resources and a FAQ for grads can be found here: <https://covidinfo.jhu.edu/information-for-graduate-students/>