

Week One Post: March 25th, 2020

Dear Students,

First and foremost, we hope you and your loved ones are doing well. Your health and safety are priority during this difficult and unprecedented time.

We know that our college closing is not only disrupting your academic environment, but also your community of Scotties and, for many of you, your sense of belonging and independence. We share this sense of loss with you.

The Gay Johnson McDougall Center for Global Diversity and Inclusion has always served as a resource and support system for many of you; please know that this will not change during this time. Our staff is available to you via email should you need any assistance. We are also exploring and building ways to engage you digitally. We had a lot planned for the rest of the semester, so we do ask for patience as we, too, maneuver this new “normal” along with you.

Because we care deeply about your well-being, we want to further echo the advice of the government and public health officials. It is imperative that we all do our part in physical distancing. Our Scotties are known for being social justice advocates. It may seem like there is nothing we can do during this public health crisis, but in reality, there is so much we can do. We all have the ability to be socially responsible to do what we can to take care of each other. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding large gatherings, canceling all non-essential travel, being conscientious of how much we buy at the store, being patient with one another, and, of course, washing your hands frequently.

As you delve into your online coursework, **the Center will also be going digital!** We will deliver weekly activities, resources, and/or forums each Wednesday focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. We will send weekly announcements with a new post via the Irvine to an external link to our new blog site, so please be on the lookout for more information next week.

As we customize our digital programming and activities to fit the needs of our community, enjoy the following [DEI/race mini films](#) (typically less than 5 minutes each) from the New York Times.

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves, look out for others, and stay safe.

Sincerely,

[Yves-Rose, Lucy, Miriam, Amy, Machamma, and Rafa](#)