Prioritizing Presence On Digital Platforms (Post Pandemic)

- Altering Grading
  - I.E.: Ungrading
  - Contract Grading
  - Score Cards
  - Menus for Assignments

- How emphasis on presence plays with the course

- Community making wellbeing over content & connection a course objective

Things to Think About

- Perusall - An e-reader that allows student annotations & posting like on social media
  - AltS: Voice Thread, hypothes.is, NOWCOMMENTS

- Discord (works with Valheim, a survival & sandbox game)
  - Gaming communication app that allows conversation outside the games so everyone, not just players can participate.
Colleges have overcome previous crises.

- **1918 - Influenza Pandemic**
  - Rationing food
  - College rituals suspended or redefined
  - No corsage & dances
  - Pooling money for military instead

- **1941 - WWII**
  - Campuses adapted to emergency war needs
  - Civilian enrollment decrease
  - Enlisted enrollment increase

- **2020 - COVID-19**
  - Student unrest & protests
  - Battle for free speech
  - Student protests

- **1960's & 1970's**
  - Student unrest & protests
No Magic Wand for Return to Normal

Too many students, faculty, and community members have stresses worsened by the pandemic.

Job loss or economic precarity, housing & food insecurity, family pressures, long haul Covid, death of loved ones.

Over the coming years:

- Incoming students will have had interrupted K-12.
- Recognize campus as workspace that needs thoughtful decisions about "future of work."
- Students not just customers.
- University not just another workspace.
- College life will continue to evolve.
HOW to ENGAGE PRESENCE IN CLASS & ONLINE

Professor
Focus on Making Students part of the Community as individuals & as a member of community.
Regularly calling students by name.

Together
First Day Introductions
2 Rounds to allow for more in-depth introductions & highlight-objective description vs. subjective description.

Students
I am passionate about...

Students call in each other in sequence:
- Applauding, cheering, waving objects
- Generate social energy

Check-ins over the semester
Stop, Start, Continue format to gather feedback.

Collaborative use of Post-it notes for categorizing info & mind maps,
Create social dialogue & collective effort.
The Foundation of Presence is establishing Authentic & Engaging Connections

Including: Formal Greetings, Discussions, Expression of Motivations, Active Play to Solve Problems & Build Creative Projects, Collaborate
College During a Pandemic

Pandemic Era Students Feeling "Cheated" Out of College Experience After Decades of Spending on Dorms, Rec Centers Gyms, etc.

Building Intellectual Community with Seminars & Research, Social Community with Extracurriculars & Traditions

There is NO Perfect Virtual Replacement for Face 2 Face

Informal Hallway Conversations About Ideas

There is no substitute for students mingling at orientation or parallel to the physical, emotional, or social "high" of joining 50,000 spectators cheering "your" team to victory!
Ideas of Self & the Body are Critical

Freedom of Self Representation & Universal Access

Essential for Openness, Respect, Engagement

Whether in the Class, Virtual, or Remote

Recognize students face:
- Faculty can direct
- Students to the Help Resources & Build a sense of Shared Community Care

Socioeconomic, Mental, Physical Health

Challenges due to Covid-19

Common Values & Practices That Encourage Interaction & Participation Enhance Presence

Prioritizing Presence Builds Relationships

Compasion, Social, Environmental Justice