

Carleton University | Welcome to My In-Person Classroom - Deanna Whelan

Hi, my name is Beanna Whalen, and I am an instructor with the department of psychology. I primarily teach statistics courses. And I will be hosting a welcome to my classroom session. In my particular session, I'll be talking about what it's like to come back and teach in person with the current COVID protocols. So if you're wondering what it's like to be able to teach back in person with all the protocols and all the rest of it, well, that's what we're going to talk about.

I'm also going to talk about how I'm managing my courses using lots of experiential learning and group work with self selection tools. Yes, even in person with the COVID protocols. How am I making it all happen?

In terms of the in-person experience, well, yeah, I'm lecturing with masks on at all times. And it's actually not as bad as you might expect. Key tricks in order to be able to manage lecturing with the mask on is to have extra masks with you, so that way you can switch. After a few hours, it does get a little bit hot underneath, and I do find switching your masks very advantageous.

The other key part is being able to see. So if you wear glasses like I do, finding a good tool for being able to keep from fogging up has been really critical. So I have found a little secret to my success right now that's been helping immensely.

Another big feature is that when we're wearing a mask and we're trying to lecture in person, the need to be vocalized is a little bit more, well, quite literally muffled. And so I've been finding the tops that I wear being absolutely critical, mainly because I need to get the microphone right up close. Where historically, if it was a little bit lower, it wouldn't be a problem and the mics could still pick that up, because I'm muffled wearing a mask, I have to make sure the tops that I'm wearing are a little bit sitting higher up, so that way I can get the microphone a bit closer.

And yes, I also have to make sure that all of my volumes are turned up quite a lot. So we can talk about what some of those elements are like and how students are feeling about being back in person. And getting students to follow through on some of the different COVID cleaning protocols. So that is what I'll be talking about. And I hope you'll be wanting to join me in my welcome to my classroom session.