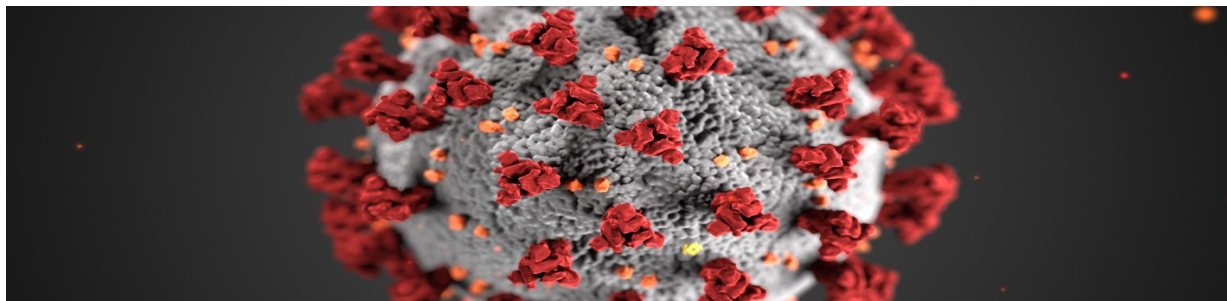


Documenting the AUC Response to COVID-19 Collection



April 20, 2020

Emeline Renz, Faculty, Clark Atlanta University

“Prior to 2020, I completed training for teaching Online courses at Clark Atlanta University (tTec from the Center for Innovative Teaching Learning and Engagement). In Fall 2019, I began preparing all my courses using the guidelines I learned, such as creating consistent "Modules" for each course section, outlining Learning Objectives, Preparation, Assignments, Discussions, and Grading information. I also learned about tools and resources that would assist with the transition to online learning. Therefore, I was fairly prepared for this change. While I was using Canvas (a learning management system) in my course prior to the Online Teaching class, I do not think I would have been as prepared for this transition. I hope that, in light of this upheaval, CAU and other AU institutions will require more comprehensive use of the learning management system in all courses. One of my biggest challenges during this time was the transformation of the Criminal Justice Internship Program. Many of the sites that hosted CAU Criminal Justice Majors could no longer host students; police departments, courts, district attorney offices, etc. were restricting all non-essential personal and operations. What was previously a straightforward (i.e., easy) course to teach was now completely altered. I developed supplemental assignments for students to complete based on their internship experience and their course work to continue pursuing the learning objectives for the course. (I'll attach the assignments as a file below.) For the students, many of them are losing an opportunity for a true internship experience, and when they graduate in May, are facing a broken economy and system that may not be able to support them. I read an article about students who graduate during a recession and how the impact can last 10-15 years, much of their career! I can only hope that the supplemental assignments I have provided them will help them understand career options and be prepared for multiple potential employment options in the uncertain future. Personally, I have found this experience to be rewarding and a great test of my teaching ability. I am grateful to have a job and a partner who also can work safely from home. We have been cooking more, finishing projects, escaping the house for a weekly round of Disc Golf and daily walks, and generally enjoying one another's company ;). We have been able to share our talents (machine repair and sewing masks) with our community and neighbors and have kept in touch with family and friends using video calls. We are both healthy and strong but are concerned for our parents and the families of my students, who face a much higher risk of loss of life from this Virus due to structural inequalities and healthcare disparities. We continue to count our blessings and enjoy our lives, while doing all we can to serve.”