

How to Adapt to Online Learning.

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 (at the start of each week – even earlier if they are prepared on time). The lectures will consist of the Professor writing on a whiteboard and will be divided into two periods of half an hour with two question-and-answer periods (after the first and second half hour periods). The lectures will be given on zoom and students can use the chat function (monitored by the TA) to ask questions while the professor is speaking. To ensure enough questions, during the Q&A session, the students will be encouraged by the methods described below.

The students will be divided into several 7–8 people group. Each group will have a nominated leader for each lecture. It is the responsibility of each leader that their groups **ask or answer two questions** (one on each Q&A period) – the questions can be asked by any of the group members (but by default by the group leader). We also encourage and record meaningful questions/discussions on Piazza.

The groups are too large to serve as study-groups but can also serve as communities from which study-groups can be formed, e.g., students who meet as part of the groups may self-select themselves into smaller informal study-groups. Students can switch between groups if they can identify people in other groups who are willing to swap. Students in study-groups can discuss homework assignments but the submitted homeworks must be written by the students individually (if homeworks overlap in context they will be flagged following JHU policies).

There will be a regular TA hour where students can interact with the TA online. Office hour is posted on the homepage. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the TA in advance through email if they will be attending to enable the TA to plan effectively. In addition, students can post questions on Piazza/Blackboard and answers will be given.

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/Blackboard, to enable all members of the class to see them, but email is also okay.

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 department and facilities,