Statement to faculty regarding Synchronous Online Courses

Synchronous online classes and in-person classes are treated the same with respect to teaching pedagogy. **Faculty teaching synchronous online courses are required to have their camera on for the duration of the class.** Faculty can blur their background, or use a virtual background, but their camera must be on for the duration of the class session.

Synchronous online classes and in-person classes are also treated the same with respect to student attendance and class participation. In the absence of extenuating circumstances, students are required to have their cameras on for the duration of the class.

In order to maintain students' privacy, students are allowed to: blur their background or use virtual backgrounds, if desired.

Understanding that not all students may have the same access to Wi-Fi, that some students may not have the capability to blur their backgrounds due to technology limitations, and/or may be attending classes virtually from locations other than their homes, we ask for flexibility. If a student is using a public space for Wi-Fi access while attending an online class, using their microphone may not be permissible and outside noise may interfere with the class.

In the above cases, faculty members can ask that a student turn on their camera for attendance purposes in the beginning of the class, and allow the student to have their camera off for the remainder of the class, but require class participation via other means.

- Alternative student interaction can take place using chat, polls, and whiteboards within the virtual platform.

- We know that students use the chat to talk to each other during class. Therefore, we ask that you set up the chat to either go only to you directly, or to everyone in the class, but not allow for private chats to occur.