

Information Security and Remote Teaching

As the fall term gets underway, the University recognizes that online learning may be raising some information security concerns for instructors who are teaching material or providing perspectives that might be viewed as controversial or illegal in other jurisdictions with different laws and cultural norms. We also understand that there may be remote classroom access concerns particularly for those international students who may be studying at York from their homes abroad.

Online Content and Classes

We would ask you to please be aware of what content you are choosing to post online for teaching purposes. In addition, please be mindful of the concerns of those students participating in online classes for the first time, particularly those citizens or residents of other countries. This may in turn shape how these students interact with on-line course materials, discussions, or assignments and may create a need for options regarding their in-class participation and assessment.

Online Technology Support and Access

Over the spring and summer, UIT has added additional resources to assist any instructor experiencing technology related issues while teaching online/remotely. Please go to <http://uit.yorku.ca/getting-help> to learn more about how UIT can support your remote teaching experience.

VPN Access

When connecting from any non-secure network (e.g. public hotspots) or if you are having trouble accessing York services, we suggest using the VPN (Virtual Private network.) The VPN creates a secure link between your device and the York Network. Instructions for setting up VPN access are available on the How to Connect Securely web page (<https://uit.yorku.ca/student-services/internet-access/wireless-access/how-to-connect-securely/>). These instructions have also been shared with all students.

eClass

Over the last few weeks, all Moodle undergraduate degree courses have been transferred to York's new upgraded eClass platform, providing students and instructors with a faster, more stable and resilient platform. Students are now being provided with advice and support on how to best use York's eClass to access their online materials or sessions. In addition, UIT is increasing the speed and capacity for eClass, to meet remote learning demands, as well as completing the transfer of all graduate courses. If you happen to encounter any eClass issues, please report them to askit@yorku.ca.

Zoom and other Online Platforms

As you are aware from earlier communications, Zoom has the capability to suspend access to certain accounts at the request of foreign governments. Should this affect students in your course at any time, email askit@yorku.ca so UIT can help you move your Zoom sessions to other online platforms such as Teams or Adobe Connect.

Cyber Security

Following the spring cyber-attack on University servers, the University has extensively enhanced cyber security systems and other protections for our networks and is continuing with these upgrades on an on-going basis. To read cyber-security-related announcements and

advice on how to better protect yourself against cyber-threats please visit <https://infosec.yorku.ca/>. If you suspect information security issues please report them to infosec@yorku.ca.

If you are experiencing any technology related issues while teaching your courses, please visit. <http://uit.yorku.ca/getting-help>

As York instructors you are critical to the success of our students, particularly during these very challenging and unprecedented times. We would like to thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Warm wishes for a successful term.

Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic
Donald Ipperciel, Chief Information Officer