

Spring 2020 Colloquium: Building Peace - Course Evaluations [Barnard College, Columbia University]



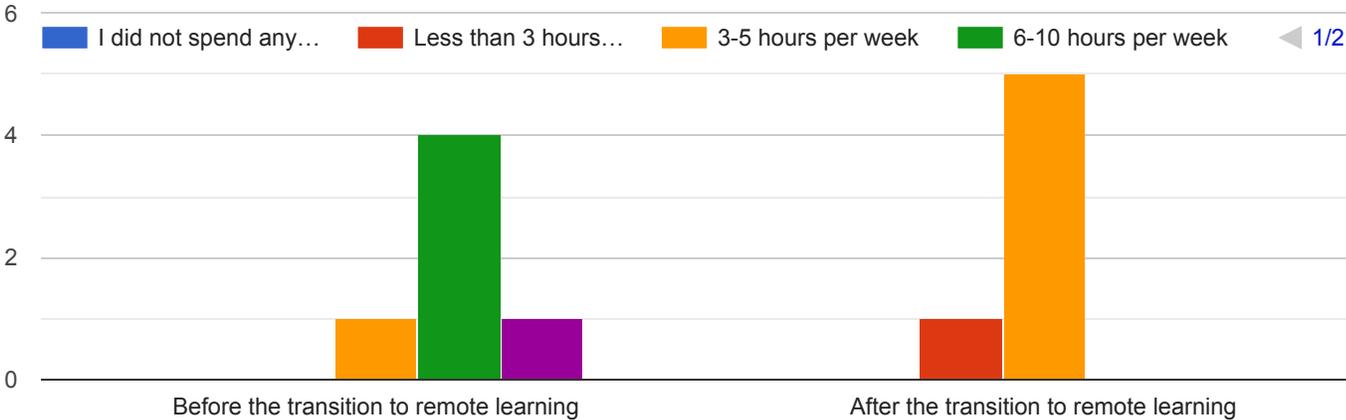
Dear Students,

Barnard College and Columbia University experienced unprecedented teaching disruptions this year, and due to these circumstances will not be conducting standard course evaluations for Spring 2020. Instead, you will be asked to fill out a survey from the Dean of the Faculty about your overall experience of the remote portion of your academic coursework, which will help the faculty as a whole.

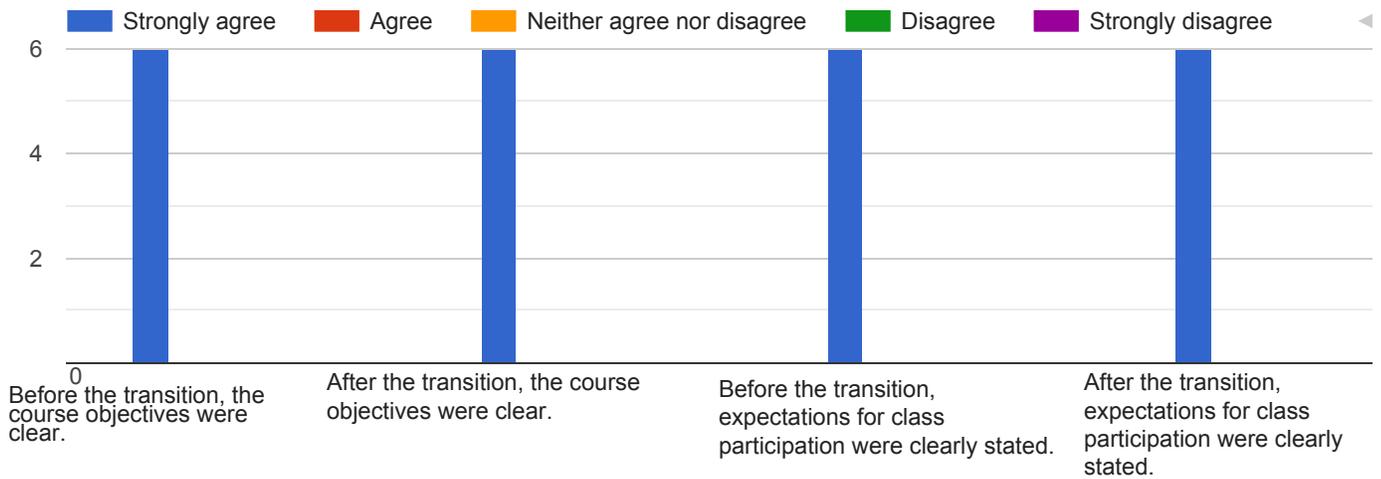
As your instructor, however, I would still find it beneficial to receive some feedback from you about this course in particular, both the entire course and the online learning part of it. It will help me to improve the course the next time I offer it. Your participation is optional, not tied to grade release, and is anonymous.

I am grateful to you for your contributions to the course, as well as your cooperation through our transition to remote learning.

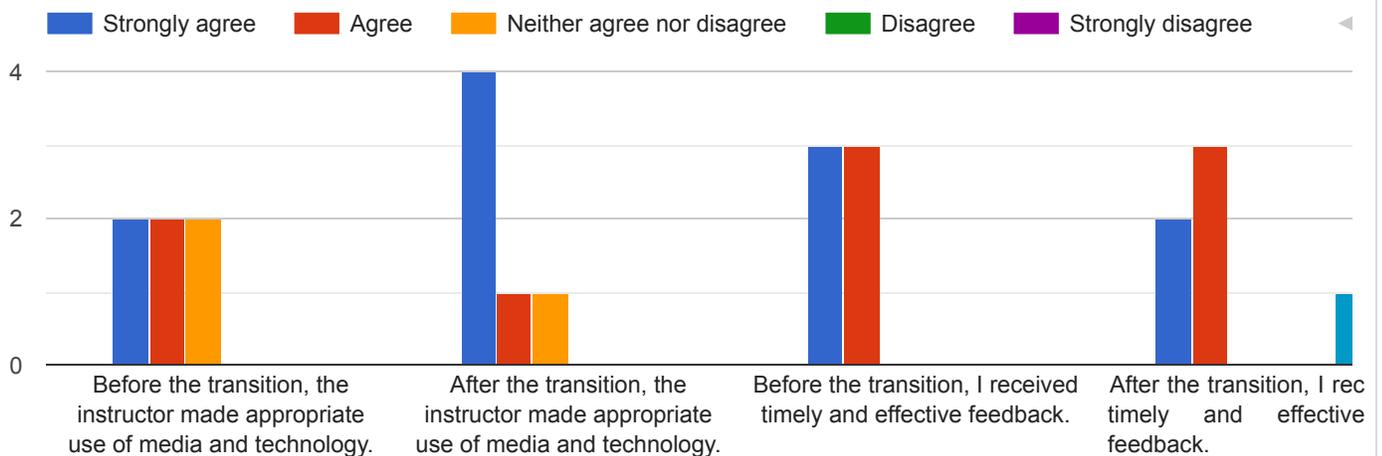
How many hours per week did you devote to this course both before and after the transition to remote learning? (Note: Please include all time spent on this class including class time, discussion sections, readings assignments, studying, etc.)



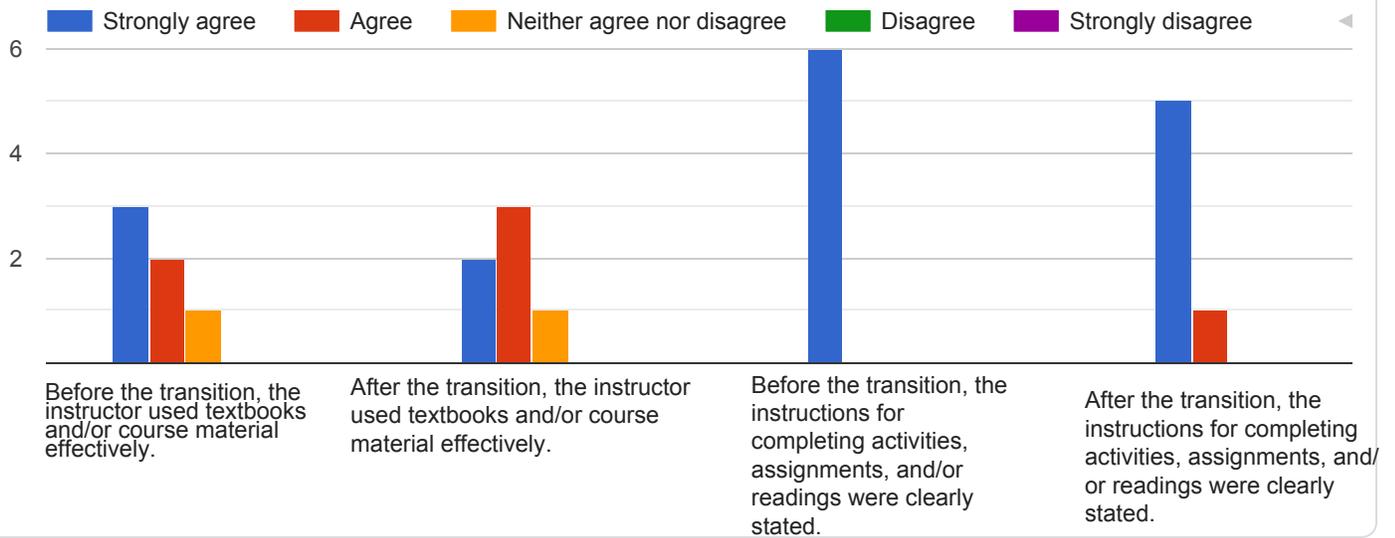
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this course both before and after the transition to remote learning:



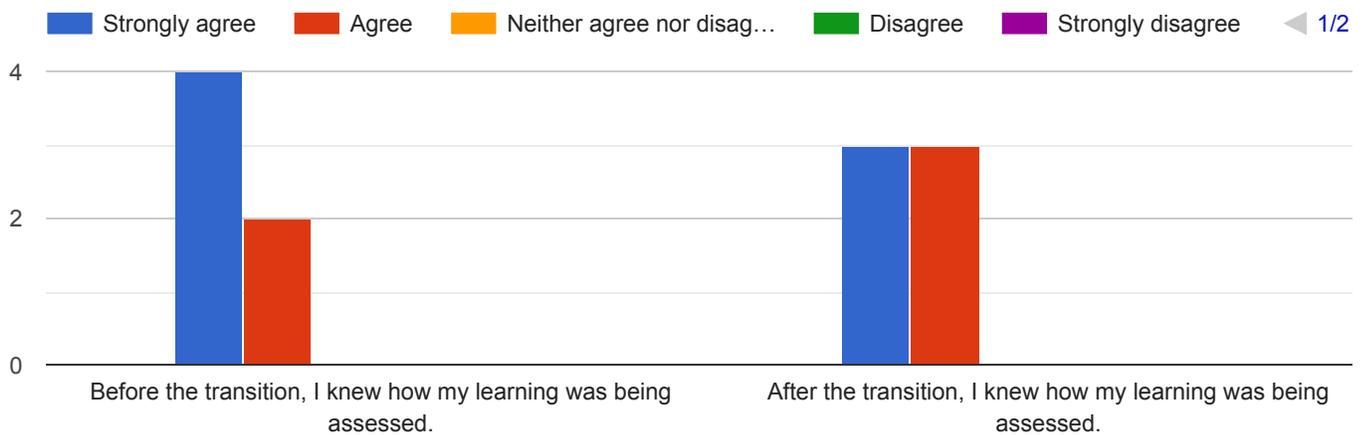
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Please provide any overall comments or suggestions you may have regarding this course BEFORE the transition to remote learning:

2 responses

I really enjoyed our classes together. They were captivating and engaging.

The overall learning experience before the transition to remote learning was really good even though there are a lot of work to be done for this class. I feel like I'm learning both knowledge and skills which is precious for me. I also liked the discussions we have during class and the mini presentations. They improved my confidence in speaking in other public spaces as well

Please provide any overall comments or suggestions you may have regarding this course AFTER the transition to remote learning:

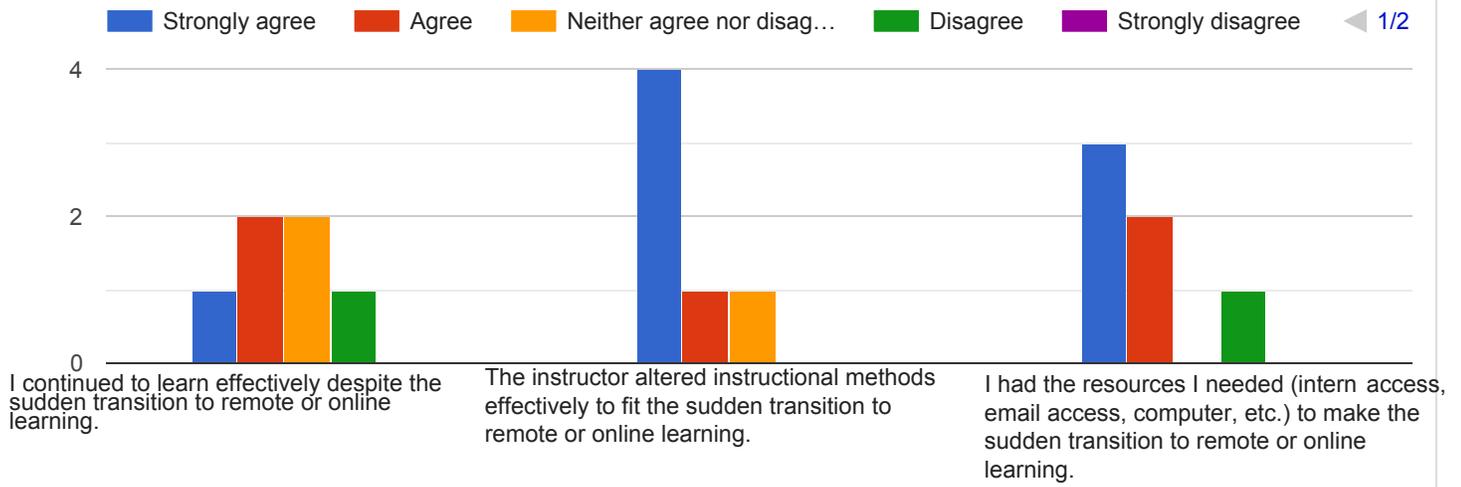
2 responses

While remote learning was difficult, our class was able to productively proceed to continue learning in a seminar setting.

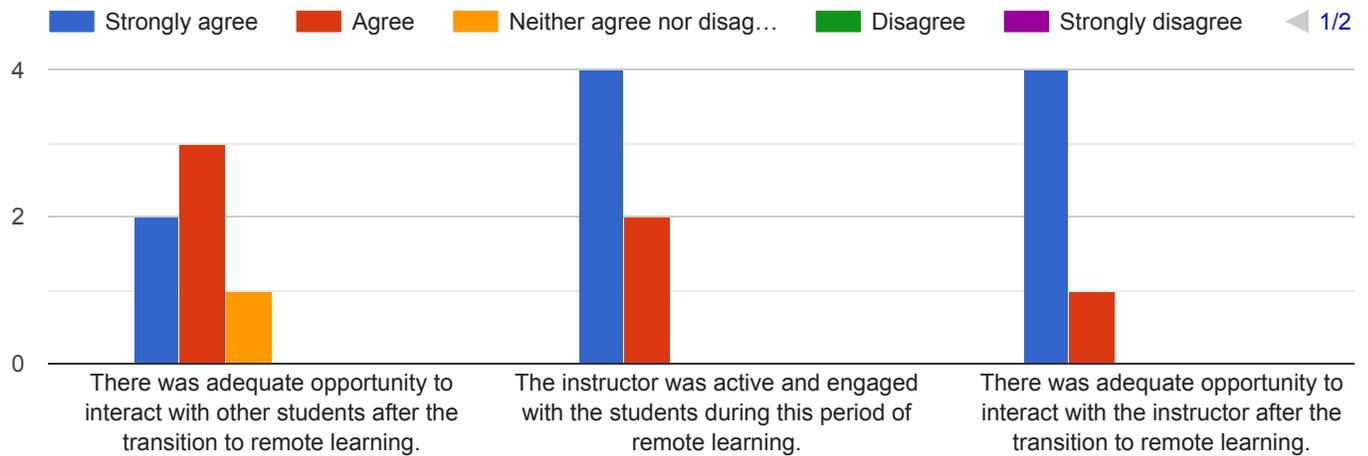
It is amazing how the transition to zoom worked well for this class. I have to admit that this is the best class I have during zoom. I can focus and discuss with my classmates freely during zoom classes. The two oral presentations we have during the class allowed me to become comfortable with speaking to the camera. The professor also took many of the stress off by reducing the page limit of the paper. Surprisingly, it helped me learn more and do more work about my research paper because I get to learn to talk only about the important stuff in my paper. Thank you for everything

The Transition to Remote Learning

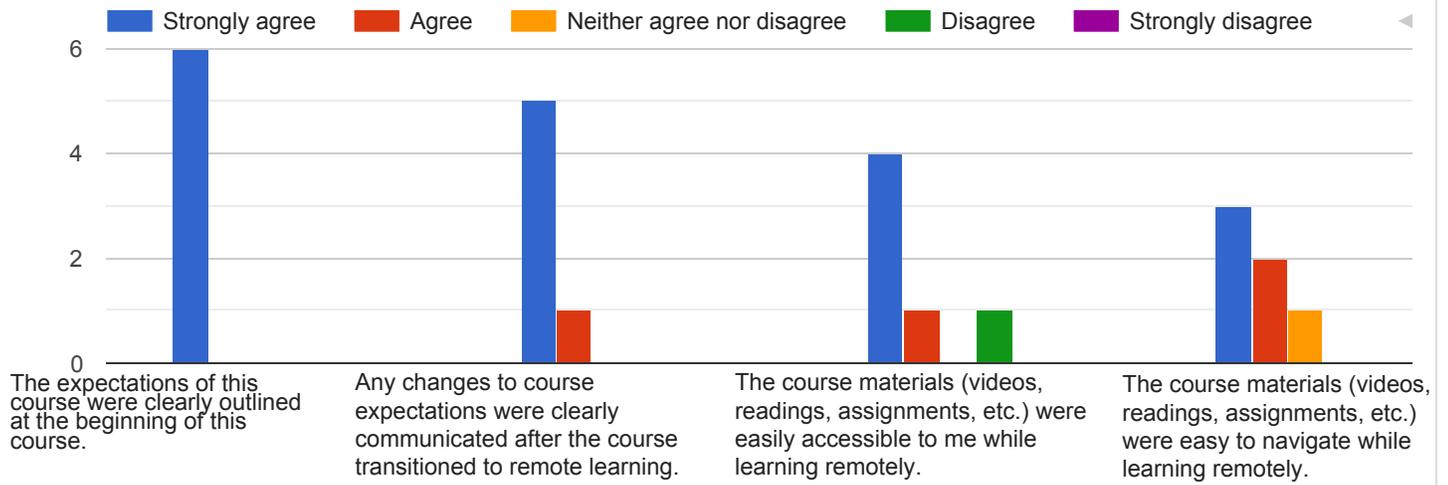
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the the transition to remote learning:



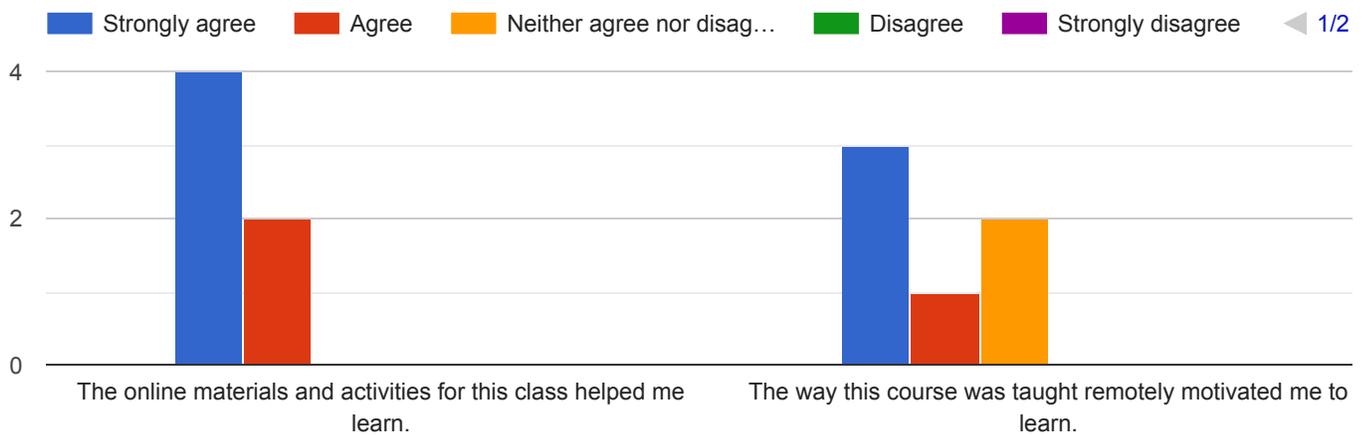
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about your interactions in this course after the transition to remote learning:



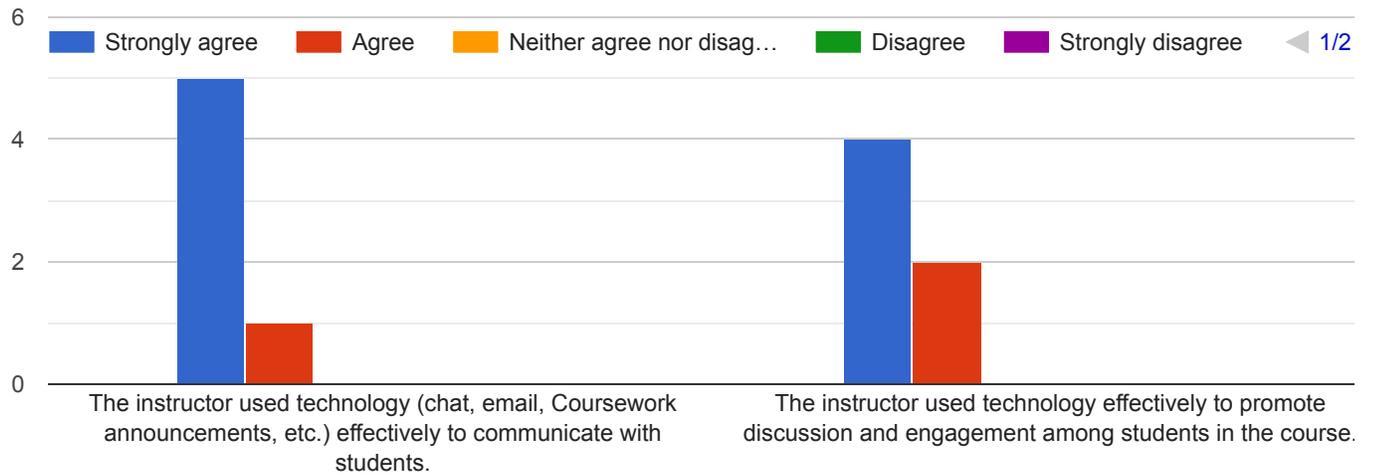
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about the course design and course materials during the period of remote learning:



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Additional Open-Ended Questions

What aspects of this course contributed most to your learning?

6 responses

The professor's hands-on experienced with the topics we discussed, and the experiential learning aspects (i.e. - public speaking, negotiations)

reading skills

The instructor-led discussions about the readings.

I thought the role play was a great way to combine the content and public speaking skills we learned in the class. It also gave us an opportunity to see peacebuilding 'in action' and gain a better understanding of how negotiations work in practice.

The small seminar setting and encouragement to participate. Warm and welcoming environment. Keeping track of time. Lessons on leading meetings. Strategy regarding contingency plans (re peacebuilding and in life).

Discussion in class and preparing for presentations and peace memos

What suggestions would you offer to the instructor for improvement of this course to better support your learning?

3 responses

I felt like the first half of the class was less focused on discussion and I didn't feel as engaged with the material as I did during the second half of the class. I would incorporate more discussions not only about the readings but also have students consider how the readings can be applied to ongoing conflicts and peacebuilding efforts.

Have drafts of the final paper due earlier in the semester.

I struggled with coming up with the research puzzle. But honestly think the help I received from the professor was awesome. Maybe while teaching about research puzzle next time, more examples that's closer to daily life can be presented. It took me a while to get there but I think it was probably just me.

Would you suggest that the instructor incorporates virtual/remote options into the traditional, in-person version of this course? If so, which ones, how, and why? If not, why not?

4 responses

No - it is more engaging and pleasant to be in an in-person class

no

I always prefer in-person interactions and think that, when possible, they should be prioritized.

I feel like the class is heavily based on discussion and wonder what incorporating virtual would look like