**Villanova On-Line (or, "You've got *more* than mail!"):**
**Free Resources & Reassurance for the Covid-19 Era**

- Despite the dire conditions giving rise to it, a move to on-line instruction can provide new and exciting opportunities to try out different tools and build new skills. However, I think that simply focusing on already-established learning goals and assignments can help to resist the temptation or reduce any pressure to produce the equivalent of an on-line course overnight.

- As you select the tool(s) that best support your learning goals, work from your strengths and your level of comfort with technology – there's no need to launch a polished, on-line course.

  o Limit yourself to one or two (at most) technologies that are new to you and/or your students.  Make time to learn about the tool, set it up, and practice with it.  Sharing why you are using it and acknowledging learning curves may also help put students at ease.
  o While we are to be communicating with & evaluating students according to our regular course schedule, our course delivery need not include a live component.  Our main goal is to stay connected with our students, to maintain clear, frequent communication (two-three times a week), and to be available for questions and support.

- Consider students' concerns moving forward: get informal feedback on how they're doing and what support they might need amid consistently scheduled class sessions. Poll Everywhere can get live, real-time responses from them. (Like all the other free resources below, it can be used for survey-based class activities, but the data is anonymous without a paid subscription.)

  o Be aware of digital divides that may come into play when students leave campus and return to varying socio-economic and health conditions. E-mail may be the most familiar, reliable, & accessible tool for all students after they leave, just like VU's standard Blackboard LMS.

- Zoom (how-to @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i-NA563Ojk), Office 365 (sign in w/ your username@villanova.edu + password) and Bb Collaborate are options for conducting live (synchronous) sessions. You can access Facilitating Live Sessions with Zoom: Instructional Guidance (pdf) for step-by-step guidance on Zoom teaching in Bb. Dr. Stefan Perun, faculty and experienced live session facilitator, Public Administration, offers a narrative how-to Quick Start Guide on Teaching Live with Blackboard Collaborate in ppt. Please click "play" on each slide.

- I have found the following on-line apps (laptop & phone friendly) helpful in facilitating student participation and discussion; they may be used synchronously or asynchronously. Links to the online apps can be embedded in Bb and in Zoom or Bb Collaborate for live class activities.

  o KAHOOT! Real time questions (multiple choice, T/F, write-in, etc.)
    ▪ Can introduce new material or test student comprehension of covered material
    ▪ Competition & instantaneous feedback excites students, facilitates learning
  o QUIZIZZ (pronounced "Quizzes")
    ▪ Like KAHOOT but can be used by students at their own pace as well as for homework outside of class (great for asynchronous course work)
  o Meme or fake "Instagram"/Social Media generators
    ▪ Reveals students' strengths/weaknesses in comprehension & analysis & are fun!
    ▪ Perfect for small group work & presentations (15 min. or less); excites students
    ▪ Provides a platform from which to dive into deep discussion of texts & concepts
  o Flipgrid or TikTok
    ▪ Short videos (15 seconds - 5 min) allow students to codify & share their learning

Bottom line: With low or high tech, we can offer students continued opportunities to learn and grow.