Discussion on the Effects of Coronavirus In Our Lives (Optional)

This participation for this discussion is optional, meaning you do not have to do it. I will be monitoring it and responding to it when I feel appropriate, but your participation (or lack thereof) will not be graded.

This discussion board is designed for 2 reasons:

1. We can voice our concerns/frustrations/struggles with how our lives have been changed by the effects of Coronavirus.
2. To be there for each other by giving each other words of encouragement and/or pointing each other towards resources we may not know about to help each other out.

*With that being said, all responses must be supportive. Any responses which belittle or make fun of the commenter, in any way, will be removed and I will deal with that student one on one.

Right now, I'm fine—I'm sitting at home with my husband and my cat, my job is still paying me my normal wage, and I'm continuing to transition this class from in-person to fully online. My concerns are mostly with you all and there are 2:

The first one has to do with social capitalism—you can sound smart at dinner parties with that phrase, but basically what it means is that, in order for things to run, the system needs lots and lots of cheap labor, workers who are essential to the system but who we constantly called "low-skilled" so that we can keep their wages low (because the system has to keep them low in order to run properly). Some of these workers would be the lumpers in Amazon, delivery truck drivers, retail clerks, grocery store and "box store" (like Target) employees, restaurant servers and waiters and cooks. This is by no means an exhaustive list but you get what I mean. A whole bunch of you are employed in these areas (which is one of the reasons you are in college—you want to end up with a better job after you get your degree) and those industries are now in flux because of the mandatory closures and social distancing requirements, sometimes cutting the hours of their employees, or, like with supermarkets, perhaps increasing hours but then also increasing their workers to possible exposure.

The second one has to do with social reproduction, again, you can sound smart at dinner parties. This is the idea that workers are very important, not only the ones who are actually working, but raising new ones to replace us once we are too old to work. In this country, this responsibility falls more or less solely on each of us as individual families raising our own kids. I do not have any kids, but I know that for families with children, this transition has been difficult; all of our daily schedules have been changed.

So basically, with those two things in mind, I keep thinking about how, along with the stresses those two things are causing in all of your lives, how much more added stress is now on you moving this course from in-person to on line. What do I ask your professor have to do to ensure, as much as I can, that you can succeed in this sudden new format, this format none of us asked to be thrown into for an indefinite amount of time?