March 13, 2020

Greetings Students,

It’s been a hectic week for all of us, but it appears that the dust might be settling just a little bit. I’m writing now to see if I can settle it just a bit more by offering some updates and clarifications on how classes will work in the coming weeks.

• First, as explained in University-wide emails, classes will not resume until Monday, March 23. When classes resume, instruction will occur remotely, either through live instruction or recorded lectures. Your professor will (and may already have) provide you some guidance on how classes will work in the coming days.

• Second, we are unfortunately in the position of having to fit 6 weeks of course content into 5 weeks of time (which may require make-up classes). Please know that we are fully aware of the burdens that could impose and are working hard to mitigate them.

• Third, in keeping with the second point, some of your professors may soon distribute some videos, readings, or exercises that you can review before Monday March 23. Distributing some material next week will relieve some of the challenges of completing the semester in a shortened timeframe. To be clear, however, no assignment will be due next week and professors understand that some students will not be able to study at all next week. If your professor has asked you to complete work next week and you would find that a hardship, just let your professor know and they will oblige.

• Fourth, building on the third point, please never hesitate speak up if your personal circumstances prevent with you from completing your coursework. It is probably best to contact your professor directly, but if you’d rather contact the Dean’s Office for some reason, just email Dean Sklut or me. These are extraordinary circumstances and we will make every possible effort to help you complete the semester.

For better or worse, you’ll probably hear from me again in the coming days and weeks. This is a work in progress, but we are committed to doing our utmost to make the remainder of this semester as best as it can be.

John F. Preis (him)
Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
University of Richmond School of Law
(804) 289-8682
http://ssrn.com/author=591835