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## "My COVID Experience: Fall 2020"

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## My COVID Experience: Fall 2020

8/24/20

It's my first day back at school after taking a year off. Just my luck that I applied for the first semester at CSUSB instead of quarter. On top of that it's all mine. I am a visual learner so having to do everything online is my first choice. I am a full-time online student and a full-time essential worker. Stress on top of stress. Why I did this to myself, I don't know. So far I am able to stay on top of all of my assignments. I am doing my best to stay organized because I can fully give my attention to school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Any other day it is not guaranteed that I'll have time to do anything. I also have to adjust what I need to do during my free time: should I binge Netflix shows or work on my schoolwork? It's a tough decision but deep down I know it has to be homework. This week I've learned that my Wi-Fi sucks. On my first day back my first couple of zoom videos were unacceptable, so that was fun. I've learned the difference between synchronous and asynchronous courses and that zoom with the camera on can be very intimidating. Not only is it intimidating but it's also distracting. I find myself looking through the zoom gallery to see what everyone else looks like. This takes my attention away from the actual course that I paid for, that I get graded for, that I need to pass to graduate. Moral of the story online sucks. Thanks Covid! This semester will be very overwhelming and when it's over it will be another accomplishment under my belt. I can predict a couple of breakdowns along the way from all the work I have to put on my shoulders. This semester will make or break the rest of my educational career. If I stay passionate with this career choice I'll step down at work but if I choose my current job I will stop going to school. Teacher vs a career at Costco. Who knows what's going to happen with all this COVID stuff. Who knows if we will even make it through this madness. Only time will tell.

9/3/20

After two weeks of this new form of quotations going to school and quotations I feel like I'm finally able to keep up with all of my classes. Staying organized with the different classes will probably be an ongoing struggle. Last week I missed part of an assignment but luckily a fellow classmate caught my mistake. I'm so glad the other people in my groups are willing to help me out. I am only able to designate two whole days to school. The rest of the week I will be at work full-time which leaves me a few hours on those days. I can definitely feel the pressure on both ends but so far I'm staying ahead. Another thing I finally got in my math book! I've been a bit lost in that class because I didn't have the book in front of me. The surprising thing I learned in that class is that because of common core we have to start teaching math that has "no math" in it at all. Students will be learning how to communicate with groups, problem solved with the group, and a bit of public speaking to get them ready for real life. I think learning how to change their minds and thinking of younger students will prove to be very useful. I'm excited to see what this teaching thing will do for future generations. I am constantly on my phone from the time I wake up to the time I go to bed. Just trying to make sure I'm not missing anything for the five classes I am taking or from my work where I am leading the department. I sure like to put a lot on my plate at one time. It's so much fun! I guess it's better than not doing anything with this quarantining stuff.

9/12/20

This week has been another long week even though we had a holiday. There's been so much going on in the world not just in my daily life. For one, the world is ending. It's literally burning to the ground. There are so many fires burning all around us, it's ridiculous. Not only do these fires pollute the air but also people's lungs; on top of corona. Working as an essential worker in this pandemic has really taken a toll on me. I have to make sure I stay safe at work while also running one of the busiest grocery stores we have, Costco. I have to deal with members that don't think they need to wear a mask or think they are entitled to grabbing extra toilet paper, paper towels, or hand sanitizer. I have to deal with the stress of work and then go home to the stress of making sure I am not slacking off in my classes here at CSUSB. This is going to be a long semester.

9/20/20

This week has been trash. The world is still on fire and my Wi-Fi sucks. I am losing it over here. I've missed class because the zoom wouldn't connect! I don't even know what's going on I can't even look at recorded classes because the one class I missed doesn't record. Here comes the struggle. This week was a lot of group work and I don't know how I feel about it. I don't think others can pull their own weight at times, especially now that everything is virtual. I always have to start the conversation or make the Google doc or Google slide for us to connect and I'm getting tired of it. I hope someone else will take the initiative to get the assignment started. I have so much on my plate right now. At work I have to write a schedule and make sure we have appropriate coverage in my department then I have to lead the department, making sure that we meet our benchmarks. I've been working nine hour days because I'm not able to finish what I need to during my eight hour shift. That leaves me less time to focus on school work and I feel like I'm starting to fall behind. I know it's only the fourth week of my first semester back but it's going to be a tough rest of the semester to get through.

10/1/20

It's beginning to feel like fall finally. We are in spooky season and let me just say this has been one long year. As for this week it's been pretty eventful. I was sent three midterms on Monday. Because this is my first online semester it really took me by surprise. I don't think I will do bad on them I just worry that I won't have the time to finish all of my work properly. I'm actually pretty excited to see how much I've actually learned so far because this virtual learning is all new to me. I've started two other group projects as well, just another obstacle of online courses at Cal State. This semester has been going by pretty fast considering I take all 15 units in two days out of the week. One of the craziest things I've learned this week is that politics is actually quite funny. The presidential debates are just getting started and both candidates are acting like fools. Our lovely president doesn't know how to let others talk. All I've been seeing on social media or Memes and funny videos of how childish Trump actually is. As a cherry on top today October 1st it is confirmed that Trump has Covid, oh the irony. I think it's funny that someone who is so against the virus who thinks it's not real is the one person who got infected. The one who leads our country should be trying to help us get rid of Covid instead of blaming it on others.

10/9/20

So far this week I was able to turn in half of my midterms and I feel like I did pretty good on them. I only have a couple more to go. I am already halfway through the first semester at CAL State San Bernardino and time is flying by. Going forward at CSUSB I hope the rest of my time here will go as fast as this semester has. Another accomplishment for this week is that my group and I were able to get started on her video project. We came together through group me and started brainstorming ideas of what to do. I'm excited to see what we come up with because doing everything online is going to be a challenge. Another thing that happened this week is in my math class our groups got changed up. I can't wait to work with new people. I'm getting tired of doing all the work all the time. I'm hopeful that this group will be more involved and actually help to answer questions rather than me taking on all the work for myself. The next big thing that I have coming up is my history midterm and I'm a bit nervous. History is not my strongest subject and the entire class was asynchronous to make things worse. Wish me luck. I will be spending whatever time I have in between work and my other classes to be studying in this subject. I know if I want to be on top of it the rest of the semester I have to do well on this midterm.

10/16/20

This week was pretty chill. Not a lot of things happen. I got my midterm scores back this week and they aren't bad but I have some work to do still. prime day with a couple days ago and I bought quite a few things. I started Christmas shopping already. Stay ready so you don't have to get ready. This year has been pretty interesting so we'll see how to get the coming holidays go I guess. Halloween is right around the corner but I don't think anyone is going to be allowed out at this point. With the ongoing quarantining and social distancing that Covid has brought this year it's been hard to get together with some friends and family. We've gotten candy to give out for Halloween but it's probably just going to sit here until next year or until we all eat it because we're home all the time. We're trying to find something else to do this Halloween to keep ourselves entertained so we might just binge watch scary movies. It's all still up in the air. One thing that I was thinking about recently is how we all thought this quarinting thing was only going to last a couple of months but there is talk it will last for another year or so.

10/22/2020

This week actually feels like fall for the first time this year. The weather is changing, I can feel the fall breeze coming in. Halloween is next week, and I am not ready to get into the spooky fives yet. This week I had to retake my midterm which is harder than it sounds. It was difficult to redo work because I thought the first time I did it was correct I was wrong. I have to think outside the box in order to solve the problem in a different way. Another thing that I did this week was try to unravel the *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* in class. Let me just say it was the most difficult thing I had to do this whole semester. My brain is tired from all of the information I am constantly thinking about. Don't even get me started about work. Right now we are hiring for the seasonal period at Costco and it has been hectic. It's starting to get busier in the warehouse and all of our employees who know what they're doing have to stick with a new seasonal body

in order to train them properly. Although it's nice having the extra people around to help it's difficult to say if they are useful or not yet.

10/29/2020

Right off the bat this week started out terribly. Monday was very interesting; at least it was for me. I live one exit away from CAL state San Bernardino and I'm assuming everyone got the email saying there was a campus wide power outage. I got that email and text 10 minutes before the power in my entire block went out. At first I wasn't worried because it happens often but usually turns back on in a couple of hours at most. This time it was out all day! I couldn't believe it. I wasn't able to get anything done. All of my assignments wouldn't load, I couldn't log onto zoom, I was barely able to email my professors to let them know I didn't have Wi-Fi. What else could I have done? Because of the coronavirus, no one is able to go to Starbucks or the library to connect to Wi-Fi. So instead of being productive, I sat around and tried to figure out what to do. I did some reading but that's about it. I think it's sad how much we rely on electricity and Wi-Fi nowadays. It's now essential for us to be able to connect to Wi-Fi in order to do our daily tasks. For me it's online school but for others it can be working from home online. Without Wi-Fi no one would get anything done throughout the pandemic.

11/04/2020

This week is election week. I don't even know where to begin. I have no words. Trump might finally be out. My anxiety has really kicked in this week. I hope there aren't any riots when everything is said and done. As of right now we are waiting on Nevada and then we will know who won. Costco is running out of toilet paper and water again! I don't know if it is because of the election and people are scared of the riots or if it is because of the Covid cases that are on the rise again. Either way, this holiday season is going to be interesting. Not only is it crazy in the world right now, but I feel the pressure of college creeping up on me. This semester is coming to an end pretty quickly so that means all the important work like essays or projects will be due soon. Not looking forward to that. I'm going to have to re-focus on my work in front of me to stay afloat. Another thing I have to worry about is spring registration for 2021. I'm still confused on what I need to take to reach the end goal of getting my teaching credential but I guess I'll wing it and see what happens.

11/19/2020

This week has been a bit interesting. For one, there's no more toilet paper at Costco (where I work). People are panic shopping again and it is annoying. Every 15 minutes I have members asking me or calling in about toilet paper and paper towels. I just have to say no to everyone at this point. I don't even get a chance to buy any myself and I work there! Anyways, the semester is flying by so fast. We have three weeks left until we're done with maybe three or four more class meetings. So excited!! Next up is spring 2021. I don't even know what I registered for only that I got what I needed so I guess that's good. I think I am taking the theater in the classroom course online so that should be interesting. It's going to be my second semester at a Cal State University and it's going to be all online once again. I guess it's the safest route to go. I wouldn't be comfortable sitting in multiple classrooms with people I don't know. In the past it wasn't a problem but nowadays we have to be careful who we come into contact with. I would hate to get

Covid because I sat in a class that I paid for. That means I paid to get Covid and that doesn't sound very fun.

11/23/2020

This week is Thanksgiving week. Most of my professors have given us assignments and canceled the classes for the holiday. I was really excited for Thanksgiving this year: the food, the company, the relaxation of it all, however there is a possibility I will spend it quarantining by myself. Because I work at Costco I am constantly around people who have no regard for personal space. On my name badge I have a red sign saying stay 6 feet back and the members decide to ignore it. Anyways, there have been quite a few coworkers who have tested positive recently. It is mostly management who has tested positive and guess who I've been socializing with? MANAGEMENT. they are dropping like flies and I am afraid I will be next. Apparently there is a list of at least 15 employees and counting to have tested positive. I guess I will be lonely on Thanksgiving and get tested soon after. My stress level is racing, not only do I have to deal with the fear of Covid but also the added work I have to take care of since so many people are out, and..... Finals week!!! I am juggling full-time work and full-time school but it's almost over. One more week and I won't have the weight lifted off my shoulders. I just keep telling myself I think I can, I think I can. Let's do this.

12/01/2020

As the semester comes to an end I am proud to say that I have made it through my first online semester at CAL state San Bernardino. At the very beginning of this year I was skeptical on how well I would do. As of right now I have all A's but I still have to finish taking my finals. I feel fairly confident in my abilities to score high on my finals. All we have to do is make sure I study and that I finished all my assignments so I can continue to keep my straight A's. I think this will be the first time I've had all A's in my life. I usually always have one B sticking out like a sore thumb, but fingers crossed. On another note the news has been saying that the coronavirus cases have risen to a new high because of Thanksgiving. Last week I ended up getting tested myself and it was not something I would recommend getting multiple times. They swab the inside of my nose but it felt like they were poking and prodding in my brain. Luckily I did end up coming back negative. The anticipation of waiting for the results on top of it being finals week and the added stress of just being at work surrounded by large crowds of people has made this last week a difficult one. After next week I will use my days off to do nothing but relax. I plan on doing everything from doing puzzles to wrapping gifts and playing video games. Something to keep my mind off the craziness that's going on in the world: coronavirus quarantining and lockdowns. The month or so in between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will be the most I've had a break all year and I'm so ready for it!