



The Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts
Tel Aviv University

הפקולטה לאמנויות
ע"ש יולנדה ודוד כץ
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

Prof. Architect Eran Neumann, Dean
March 29, 2020

Dear students,

Two weeks have gone since we launched our online study program. The Faculty administration remains in direct contact with the heads of the different schools and departments, and receives detailed feedback on the manner in which the courses are held. I am pleased to say that most of the courses are being conducted successfully, without any major problems.

We are aware of the fact that the shift to online classes involves some modifications to teaching methods, and, accordingly, adjustments to the course requirements. The Faculty's academic and administrative staff is doing its best to facilitate the full acquisition of the knowledge and skills outlined in the original courses. At times, both faculty members and students are required to be creative and adapt their teaching and studying methods to new formats. I hope that these changes are not presenting you with too many difficulties.

I am also aware of the fact that this period of self-quarantine involves changes to personal and family routines, as well as new tasks and challenges. The shift to online study is not always easy, both mentally and operationally. I thank you for your cooperation. We are filled with appreciation for the manner in which you are participating in the virtual courses and completing the related assignments.

In this context, the university is providing you with a support system. Students interested in mental or emotional support are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students at together2@tauex.tau.ac.il. The Dean is offering students access to a group of mental health providers who will be glad to assist you. We also know that many of you have lost your sources of income, have been fired, or have been put on unpaid leave. Within the limitations of the resources available to it, the University will provide you with financial support. Please see the link to university funds that provide student loans: <https://deanstudents.tau.ac.il/loans-table>

Additionally, the Faculty is preparing to hold the late exams remaining from the First Semester. We are doing our best to facilitate completion of all academic requirements remaining from the previous semester, so that you may go on to attend to the many requirements of the Second Semester. Students who still need to take exams have already



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received or will shortly receive announcements concerning alternate guidelines for the originally scheduled exams.

The Faculty is also currently holding activities that extend beyond academic study. The different schools and programs are holding a range of virtual activities that are worth exploring. The Steve Tisch School of Film and Television is offering access to parts of its online platform of student films, T-Port, which may be accessed freely by all viewers. The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music has uploaded recordings of several excellent concerts to its Facebook page. We will soon also upload video films of performances produced by the university theater. Please see the links to the films and concerts at the end of this letter. We encourage you to visit the sites, watch and listen.

Finally, I am sharing with you the thoughts voiced by Rainer Maria Rilke in his fourth letter to Franz Kappus, written in the early 20th century. Kappus was a young poet studying at the military academy of Vienna, who wanted to know how to write poetry and create art. Rilke's words acquire a somewhat different significance at this time:

But everything that may someday be possible for many people, the solitary man can now, already, prepare and build with his own hands, which make fewer mistakes.

Therefore, dear Sir, love your solitude and try to sing out with the pain it causes you. For those who are near you are far away, you write, and this shows that the space around you is beginning to grow vast.

And if what is near you is far away, then your vastness is already among the stars and is very great; be happy about your growth, in which of course you can't take anyone with you, and be gentle with those who stay behind; be confident and calm in front of them and don't torment them with your doubts and don't frighten them with your faith or joy, which they wouldn't be able to comprehend.

Seek out some simple and true feeling of what you have in common with them, which doesn't necessarily have to alter when you yourself change again and again; when you see them, love life in a form that is not your own and be indulgent toward those who are growing old, who are afraid of the aloneness that you trust.

Avoid providing material for the drama, that is always stretched tight between parent and children; it uses up much of the children's strength and wastes the love of the elders, which acts and warms even if it doesn't comprehend.



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Don't ask for any advice from them and don't expect any understanding; but believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it.

Stay strong,

Eran

Links to films and concerts:

The School of Film and Television:

<https://tportmarket.com/school/tisch-vod/>

Concerts – The School of Music:

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/376384973197474/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/632711833960290/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/635295607307723/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/212515039833008/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/216478229701811/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/241488683918208/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/1850921151709593/>

<https://www.facebook.com/458115384242295/videos/638293953409245/>