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## Honors College\_Honors 112 Class "Screw this Virus"\_Alternate Final Exam Prompt

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Robin Delcourt <umprovost@maine.edu>

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## Course work related to virus

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Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 10:36 AM

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Per your request, below is one optional prompt for the take home exam in my two Honors 112 classes; the six texts are drawn from both semesters of the Honors first year Civilizations sequence.

Alternate final exam prompt, Tisher classes: "Screw this Virus," personal narrative and text analysis

Read "Screw this Virus," by David Brooks, from the New York Times, March 19; <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/opinion/coronavirus-isolation.html>  
Brooks is a regular columnist at NYT and commentator on National Public Radio. While I suspect you will be able to relate in many ways to what Brooks is saying, I also suspect that, with your recent studies in Honors, one line in the essay will be jarring.

Pick one or two insights/statements from this opinion piece. Place these, in quotes, at the top of your paper, as a "focus statement." Start your paper with a one page personal narrative about your experience of the Covid 19 virus, closures, social distancing, etc. As always, specifics are encouraged. Tie these in with Brooks' insights; you can either agree or disagree with Brooks.

Then proceed with a discussion of six texts, per the general exam instructions, exploring how they provide insights or perspectives relevant to the one or two insights you have chosen. You don't have to apply each insight to every text. Two of the texts could be relevant to one insight, four to the others, etc.

Bottom line of this prompt: how do texts we have studied this academic year shed light on the challenges of our current human experience?

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