**Tracy Interview**

**Date**: January 5th, 2021

**Interviewer**: What is your program of study?

**Tracy**: I'm doing a double major in sociology and criminology and then a minor in Women and Gender Studies.

**Interviewer**: Alright, and you’re in fourth year?

**Tracy**: fourth year yeah.

**Interviewer:** And so what are some of the format's of your current classes so like last time and then this upcoming semester. so are they like synchronous or asynchronous or both?

**Tracy**: Yeah, so most of them are synchronous. And then I had one that was half and half. So half of the time, it was so every I think other week or something like that it was on zoom, and then, like, the weeks that it wasn't, it was just recorded. But other than that, mostly they're all like during the time period scheduled on zoom.

**Interviewer**: Okay, cool. And so, what are what form of classes would you like have preferred? That includes in person as well, so would you rather have synchronous asynchronous both or would you rather have in person.

**Tracy:** Oh, I would rather have in person for sure. Just because I feel like I learned way better in person but if, then I couldn't have that, then like in person would be my number one but then, if not then I would like the one class that I said a mix of synchronous and asynchronous.

**Interviewer:** So, how many courses are you taking currently like this semester coming up?

**Tracy**: Okay, I had five last semesters, and this semester I have four so I guess like credits it's like four and a half credits in okay.

**Interviewer:** And would you have taken the same amount of courses if you've classes were in person?

**Tracy**: Um, yes, I would have. Because it's my last year, and I need to finish.

**Interviewer**: So this is just a bit more of like a broader question. So, since we moved to online learning how would you say your overall academic experience has been, and this includes things like your GPA, your workload, Your just your overall focus and motivation

**Tracy**: To be completely honest I think this is like my worst semester yet. Being online. I just, I can't. For me, the problem The main problem is like the motivation and like productivity, being at home.

**Tracy**: Because, like I just feel like when I went in person. It was like a totally different environment and like, also I had breaks, where like I couldn't come home. So like I would stay and do work, at school, and like likes going to the library like stuff like that and like without that it's just like I moved from like my bed which is right there and like to here so it's like, I can't find the motivation so I do everything last minute. And so it was my worst semester for sure.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Yeah. So you feel that you would have a better experience you'd say, if everything was in person like

**Tracy**: Yeah, for sure. Also, for me, I don't know this is just like another thing, participating, like on zoom is like another thing that like is like harder for me in like big classes like I feel like I was better a little bit I participated in like getting like those like marks, when it was in person and can't really.

**Interviewer**: Yeah, yeah. I feel that. Okay. And if you feel comfortable sharing has this transition to online learning had any effect on your mental health, whether it be positive or negative?

**Tracy**: Um, I definitely think like negative I think at the start. When we first went online, it was like not so bad but like then the more that like we stayed home and didn't go to campus. I just haven't had a change of scenery so like I feel like I see the same thing every day which is like, not so good for like my mental health. But I also think that like everything got like, like weird like my sleeping schedule so bad, like, which is also another like reflection I think of like my mental health like I go to sleep at least three o'clock in the morning and wake up at like 2pm like it's so bad. But, um, yeah, so definitely like the longer that we stayed home and did online learning the worse that I got. So, yeah, that's what I think.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Great. And you sorta already answered this question but like, since I guess the pandemic started in general have you felt that your motivation to do well in school, as like change at all like, do you still feel like you want to do well and academically or is it just like, I don't really care at this point?

**Tracy**: Um, I feel like yeah I cared way more before, like the pandemic happened and then I think, then when the pandemic happened. It was just like, well, like there's bigger things to care about kinda. So like I stopped like putting in like as much effort as it was before but then that was like worse for me too, because then when I saw like the results come back then that was pretty bad for like my mental health too, because I used to care a lot more.

**Interviewer**: Okay. All right, so the next section that we're going to be on is about your personal background. So, how would you describe your ethnic background?

**Tracy**: White like European.

**Interviewer**: And what's your gender,

**Tracy**: Female, so she/her.

**Interviewer:** And how would you classify your socio economic background?

**Tracy**: Probably say like middle class, maybe.

**Interviewer:** And are you currently employed?

**Tracy**: Well I'm like laid off because of the pandemic. So like, kind of, I don't know, I don't know if that counts. But yeah, so I had a job before the pandemic. And now, and I worked in a restaurant, and now restaurants are closed so I'm laid off until late. So I kind of want to go back to work. That's another thing that I think would help so much is if I could go back to work.

**Interviewer**: And so, did you receive any type of like government financial assistance this year and that includes like CERB and OSAP, and the student benefit.

**Tracy**: Yeah, so I got for, I don't know, because I know there's like two things, it was like CERB or EI, but I applied to like the EI website whatever anyways so CERB and then now I'm also getting, like the Canada recovery benefit. So CERB is like done now and now it's like CRB, so I'm getting that.

**Interviewer**: Okay. Yeah. So, what is your current living situation? So specifically, we do you live with?

**Tracy**: Yeah, so I live with my family so it's. I've three siblings. And then my parents.

**Interviewer**: And so, where you live, do you have access to, like, a quiet like learning space. So, whether that be your own or like a shared space, where you do your classes and study.

**Tracy**: Um, yeah, kind of, I just do it in my basement but now the only bad part is that elementary schools and high schools are not in person anymore. So, we're just all home, so that's kind of worse, because then we have to like all like take turns using like this basement but like before it was better because my brothers were going to school, but now they're not. But yeah, I still think it's like a pretty, pretty good like setup.

**Interviewer**: And so, do you have access to adequate technological resources. So that includes like high speed unlimited Wi-Fi, computer, webcams.

**Tracy**: Yeah.

**Interviewer**: And so being a member of your household. So, what are things that you are like required to do that includes things like household duties errands babysitting giving rides stuff like that.

**Tracy**: Like there's a lot of us so it's not as much that I'm required to do. But, um, like just helping with household chores, yeah, like loading during the dishwasher, and helping with dinner. And then also just cleaning like my own like this basement is like my area that I have to clean. That's pretty much it. Yeah.

**Interviewer**: So, would you say that any of these duties or anything have had an impact on like your studying and stuff like that or has it like not made a difference?

**Tracy**: Yeah, for me, not really.

**Interviewer:** Okay. And next question. Have you or anyone close to you, like in your immediate family or anything like that, been diagnosed with COVID-19?

**Tracy:** No

**Interviewer**: That's good.

**Interviewer**: And I guess it's a bit more of like a broader question as well but are there any type of like circumstances, whether that be like family personal financial or anything like that, that has had an effect. And that effect, whether it be positive or negative on your experience overall with online learning.

**Tracy**: I think, not like any circumstances like in particular, but I think like specifically that like with like the new AI. It's like a new thing that's gonna be through me now is that like everybody's home. Like before, in like the one like the first wave or whatever, or even just before now like the lockdown. Everything was kind of like my mom's a teacher too so like, they still went to work, but like now, my mom's teaching from home, my brothers are not going to school anymore. And my sister is also in university so we're all home all the time so that's going to be like the number one thing that's going to be a lot because we all have school like at the same time, pretty much, so like there's a lot of us doing school at the same time because even because my mom was a teacher too so it's so much school at the same time. Yeah, yeah.

**Interviewer**: Okay, so the next few questions are gonna be pre pandemic questions. Okay. Um, so, what mode of transportation did you use to get to campus before online school.

**Tracy**: I drove to campus before you drove.

**Interviewer**: Okay. How long did it take you?

**Tracy**: Probably like 15 minutes.

**Interviewer**: Nice.

**Interviewer**: And how many hours per week, did you spend on campus.

**Tracy**: Probably like maybe like 20 hours.

**Interviewer**: Okay so, how do you utilise the campus resources for your academics? So did you use things like a laptop rental, academic resources, Library Help, study spaces.

**Tracy**: So what I probably use the most was like the study rooms and the study spaces and like the library examples for sure, probably, and then I also did like take out books and stuff from the library for like projects that I needed, and other than that I used the computers there before too. I think that's probably all.

**Interviewer**: Okay.

**Interviewer**: And, yeah, you did mention that you were employed before the pandemic. So, how many hours did you work a week?

**Tracy**: Probably also like 20-30 hours maybe 25 hours.

**Interviewer**: All right. And the last section.

**Interviewer**: So, have you used any of the, this is like talking about like during the pandemic entering online learning to use any of the available resources from UTM for support, and this includes things like financial resources, academic support, the Career Centre, IEC.

**Tracy**: No. I don't even really know that much.

**Interviewer**: So if you knew more would you have like looked into them?

**Tracy**: I'd say probably, yeah, if I knew more like I would probably use more stuff but I don't really know what's like available now.

**Interviewer**: So, do you think that your professors are doing enough to be accommodating for you, and other students? And if you feel comfortable, just explain an instance where they have or have not been accommodating to you.

**Tracy**: I think for the most part, they have been. Okay, yeah, they've been kind of accommodating I think there's like, just think like it's been like the same like they there's no, they're not like more flexible, because of the pandemic I definitely don't think that I think that it's like they're the same. Yeah, they're not more accommodating for sure they're just the exact same exact thing.

**Interviewer**: Yeah and like with the pandemic have they been like more accommodating.

**Tracy**: Definitely not. They have like, not for me in particular but I know like in a lot of my classes, people have been asking for like extensions or like certain like additional aids for like tests and stuff and one of my classes we have, like, some people asked for that and they were just like, no, they're just, I think they just don't really care.

**Interviewer**: So what are some ways you would like to see your professors, be more accommodating?

**Tracy**: What I would like, I think, is if they would ask more like ask the students like what they need more or like check in, more like with how they're doing and like what they could do to help like ask the students and I don't think they really ever do that. I have like a couple professors like maybe one that would do like check ins, but then other than that, and I like that but other than that nobody really did so, I think they should do check ins and see like what how students are feeling and like what they need.

**Interviewer**: Definitely.

Interviewer: And the last question. So, overall, do you think UTM is doing enough to accommodate students?

**Tracy**: I don't know, not really. I think that like they could do more, I know that there's like also a lot of problems with like the still paying for stuff. During the pandemic that we don't get to use. That's like a pretty significant problem I think too that they should work on and that they could help, like, get rid of some of the financial burden since nobody's went to campus and they still have like the cost for half the stuff. And then I think that, like I said before, probably just like more information about what they're doing online like they don't really know what they're doing. So if they like maybe like advertised it better like I don't know like told like sent me an email or something like no more.

**Interviewer**: Okay, so those are all the ways you think that they can be more accommodating.

**Tracy**: Yeah, I think so, yeah.

**Interviewer**: Okay. All right, so we have reached the end of all the questions.

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