



MEMORANDUM, DCD #8, 2020-21

To: Faculty, University of Toronto Scarborough
From: Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs
Date: 10 November 2020
Re: **Teaching Sensitive Materials and Trigger Warning Resources**

Dear colleagues,

We have received concerns from students about traumatic or triggering materials being presented in class without advance contextualization from faculty.

We write to remind you of the importance of ensuring that our classrooms, both in person and online, are supportive and inclusive spaces. University courses often engage with challenging materials, but it is important that readings, visuals, or related course content that may be particularly disturbing be considered carefully, and framed in such a way that students are able to distance themselves if needed.

The Centre for Teaching and Learning has prepared a [resource sheet](#) to assist faculty in thinking about trigger warnings and the factors to be aware of when preparing to teach sensitive materials. This can also be accessed directly via the memos documented on the [Academic Continuity site](#).

If you have questions about this or would like additional guidance in thinking through the teaching of sensitive material, please contact CTL or your departmental embedded counsellor.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine R. Larson".

Katherine R. Larson
Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs