Hello everyone! My name is Britt Dzioba and I am delighted to be one of your facilitators for this F.L.O. MicroCourse on bringing the practice of positionality into teaching and learning.

Thank you for joining us! My co-facilitator Gwen Nguyen and I are going to start off with our introductions and then give you an overview of the week ahead.

So as mentioned, my name is Britt Dzioba and my pronouns are She Her.

I am a white, uninvited settler on the unceded, meaning never surrendered, ancestral, and occupied traditional homelands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh speaking peoples, which is colonially known as Burnaby BC.

However, I was born and raised on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lekwungen ancestors and families, the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, which is now so-called Victoria.

My ancestry is primarily Ukrainian, my family is from Western Ukraine, but I also have some Spanish and German heritage as well.

I am a queer, cis-gender woman from a middle-class background, and I am neurodivergent. I have a master’s degree in Adult Education from UBC Vancouver.

Currently I am employed at BCcampus as a learning and teaching advisor, where I am privileged to work on a variety of educational development projects with wonderful educational specialists from across the sector.

Since my work spans so many different projects and interest groups, for me, thinking about and interrogating my positionality is vital to my understanding of how my worldview, my experiences, and background impacts how I approach projects, and how I interact with my colleagues.

Gwen and I are so excited to share this learning journey with you all over the next week.

By the end of the course, you can expect to be able to define positionality and the role of a positionality statement in teaching and learning.

You will have gained a deeper understanding of your personal, place-based, and social identities and how those different layers impact your teaching and learning practices.

We will be developing our own positionality statement in the context of the digital age, and we will discuss strategies on how to integrate the practice of positionality into teaching and learning to enhance your facilitation skills, and to promote a more welcoming and inclusive teaching environment.

So we invite you to please share an introduction in the Introductions Forum so we can get to know you all a little bit better, and so you also have the chance to meet some of your fellow learners.

So I am going to pass it over to my colleague Gwen here, and she is going to introduce herself and provide an overview of the course.