Final Exams or Projects in the Time of COVID-19
Options, Considerations, and Resources

Did You Have a Final Exam Listed on Your Syllabus at the
Beginning of the Semester?

No.

You should probably not have a final exam unless it is
optional and will help your students in a very specific way.

Yes

Is the Final Necessary for the Integrity of the Course?

Yes

Does the Final Need to Be in its Typical Form or Format?

Yes.

If you will give a final...
1. Reach out to the Canvas helpline for technical details
   for putting the test online.
2. Talk to CATL about online testing best practices.
3. Provide all disability accommodations.
4. Ask if students have access to a conducive testing
   environment (e.g., are they in a house full of children
   and other working adults?) and to Internet access (i.e.,
   beyond unstable wi-fi on a phone). Consider
   alternatives for those who do not.
5. Find out if students still have access to materials
   (e.g., book) that exam is based on.
6. Think about extending time for all participants and
   making the test open-note/open-book; closed-note
   exams disadvantage honest students.
7. Note that we have no proctoring services.

No.

You may or may not give a final. Consider...
1. Read all the recommendations to the left.
2. Will changing the format negatively impact
   students? For example, if they have had 3 multiple
   choice exams already, making the final an essay may
   increase stress. Perhaps, though, you keep your
   usual test but increase or remove the time limit.
3. Are there creative, lower-stress options? For
   example, could you have an essay exam where
   students can prepare answers in advance for, say,
   three questions, but only one of them appears on
   the test? Students will still learn the material for all
   the provided questions. Contact CATL or talk with
   colleagues about alternatives.

Some practical considerations: 1. Your syllabus is a “contract” with students, and substantive modifications should be approached with caution. 2. If you simply cancel a planned final with no options/alternatives, you also potentially take away points students could have earned to raise their grade.