Hello, and Welcome to Sociology,

My name is Giana Cicchelli, and I will be your instructor for this semester. I look forward to showing you the world of Sociology, and conveying to you that though you may have never taken a Sociology course before, you are all budding Sociologists! Sociology is sometimes considered a ‘cake course’ because students find it easy; the truth is it can be easy because you have all been a part of your society since birth! You know the rules of how to ‘fit-in’ and in this course you will find out the academic terms and understandings of those rules! This is definitely going to be a fun experience for you, if not illuminating!

As a California Community College graduate myself (Go Fullerton College!) I am very aware of your learning experience and will try to accommodate your particular needs and challenges. Some of you may be here because you think that an online course will be easier than a traditional course. While this might be true for students who prefer to read textbooks rather than attend lecture, you may find that online learning is a bit more difficult than expected. Please go to http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/SucceedInDistanceLearning.aspx and familiarize yourself with the tips and tricks for succeeding in online learning.

To login you need to enter through the campus Canvas portal found here: https://coc.instructure.com/login/canvas, I will make this course available two weeks before our class starts. When you log into our course, make sure you read the syllabus.

Every week on Sunday night or Monday morning I will post an announcement that will herald the expectations for that week. You must complete all the weekly expectations if you want to do well in this class. You will have two exams, a midterm and a final, that are both multiple choice, and administered online. You will have a week to complete these, and all exams are open book/open note. I am aware that students learn in different ways, and also test in different ways, and as such you will also be required to turn in two written assignments.

More information about this course is available on the syllabus. Remember the syllabus is tentative, whereas the weekly announcement with expectations is what is required every week, and all expectations need to be completed in order to do well in this course.

If you have course questions, I have created a ‘Course Questions’ forum in ‘Discussions’. Please post your questions there so that either myself or your fellow students can answer you, as well as giving everyone the benefit of the answers given.

I want nothing more than for you to be successful in this course. In order to be successful you must be realistic about the amount of time that will be required. The estimated hours you will be committing to this course is about 9 hours/week (18 hours/week if accelerated), or 144 per semester. This is average, and the standard expectation, though I am aware that many of you may learn faster or slower. Please allow yourself the appropriate amount of time to succeed in
this course! And you can always email me (giana.cicchelli@canyons.edu) if you have questions, or difficulty.

If you have any trouble logging in please contact the Distance Education Office Email: distancelearning@canyons.edu (Preferred contact method)

Phone: (661) 362-3600, Office: Library-204

Disabled Learning Programs and Services can be found at http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DSPS/Pages/default.aspx

Hopefully these tools will help you along your Sociological Journey with me!

If you ever need to contact me you can email me at giana.cicchelli@canyons.edu and I will respond to your email within 48 hours (if I do not respond, you should email me again).

I look forward to a wonderful semester!

Cheers!

Giana Cicchelli
Professor of Sociology
College of the Canyons