Orientation Letter for Online/Hybrid Sociology Classes

Professor Mariana Branda

Hi everyone!

Welcome to my online/hybrid classes. Sociology is the scientific study of human society. Sociological topics include stratification, family, gender, race relations, organizations, media, subcultures, deviance, and many others. As a member of society, you will be able to relate at a personal level to several sociological themes making this course relevant to all students, regardless of their career goals. These courses will introduce you to important concepts and theories to help you think critically about the social world.

In 100% online classes, exams and assignments will take place over the internet. We will not meet in a traditional classroom setting. On the other hand, hybrid classes require a certain number of face-to-face class meetings. Distance education offers great advantages to online/hybrid classes like working at your convenience, avoiding traffic, saving on gas, etc. However, this type of learning experience requires a considerable degree of discipline and organization skills. We will be working at the same pace and you cannot make up for incomplete work at the end of the course. You will need to visit Canvas at least every other day to follow up with assignments and to participate in board discussions. Make sure that you can commit to this format. Class participation will be checked weekly with computerized statistics.

On the first day of class, you must log-in and post your personal introduction. I will drop any student who fails to participate in the first forum as a "no show". Students who get dropped will not be reinstated since waitlisted students will be enrolled in their places. The course syllabus and calendar will be available under the menu titled, “Syllabus.” I do not provide students with usernames or passwords.

Adding: I will add only waitlisted students and in the order listed on the waitlist. You do not need to contact me unless I offer you a space. In that case, you will need to reply to my email within 24 hours to accept. Keep in mind that if you add an online/hybrid course, you need to wait at least a day for your account to be created by Canvas.

Required Course Materials: Check with the COC bookstore for the required textbook.

http://coc.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TBWizardView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=24054

Make sure that you will have the textbook by the beginning of the first week of class. If you order your books online, act promptly.

Readiness: If you are new to online classes, I strongly recommend that you review these online resources for additional information:

http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/OnLine/Pages/OrientationOH.aspx

https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121
Basic login instructions

Default Student login for Canvas:

**URL:** [https://coc.instructure.com/](https://coc.instructure.com/)

**Username:** your MyCanyons username

**Password:** student

Change your password after you login to Canvas for the first time.

How to change password: [https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2893](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2893)

If your course does not appear on the first day please check the following things before calling technical support: Has the class officially started? Did you pay for the course? Do you have any holds on your account that would deny you access? Has it been more than 24 hours since you have added the class to your My Canyons account? If you are still having problems and none of these are an issue please contact COC tech support at 661-362-3344.

Feel free to email me with questions. Please, include your name, course name and section number in your email.

Best,

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