Welcome!
Hello and welcome to my online Sociology class! First and foremost, I think Sociology is the most interesting and useful subject you can study. (Yes, I'm biased!) Sociologists are interested in everything that humans do—and humans are such interesting creatures that you can’t help but have fun observing them! After just one Sociology class as an undergraduate (many years ago) I was hooked! I loved Sociology so much, in fact, I decided to stay in school forever; the only difference is I am teaching Sociology, but we are all in this together!

After reading the message below, please feel free to email me with any questions at katie.coleman@canyons.edu. I will strive to answer emails I receive prior to the first day of class within a day or two. Please be sure to include your full name, the class, and the section number in your emails. Please do NOT email me to say “May I add your class?” (see below for the answer to that).

Waitlist: If you are on my waitlist I will contact you at the email address you have in MyCanyons. IF I have an opening, I will add only from the waitlist and in the order listed on the waitlist. You do not need to contact me unless I offer you a space. If I do offer you a space you will need to contact me within 24 hours to accept. You will then need to add and pay for the class immediately since it may take up to 48 hours for you to appear in Canvas. Typically I have a screening quiz worth about 10 points that is due during the first 48 hours of the class. I use this to drop students who are not active in class. If I add you after the quiz is due you will be allowed to take the quiz within two days of your add date.

Learning Management System (Canvas) Information
This course utilizes an LMS called Canvas. If you haven’t used Canvas or want a refresher on Canvas, please visit the guides. Please log into Canvas by the 1st day of class.
Default Student login for Canvas:
URL: https://coc.instructure.com/
Username: your MyCanyons username Password: students

Change your password after you login to Canvas for the first time.
How to change password: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10612

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?

Check out this webpage from College of the Canyons Distance Ed about what it takes to be a successful online student.

Is an online course right for you?
All work in this course occurs online. There are no face-to-face meetings. Since you can log in at any time convenient to you, the time of day that you complete your work is more flexible than it would be with an in-person class. But there are still deadlines, which means this is not a class in which you can complete work far behind your class-mates, or make up work during the last weeks of the term. This is not a “learn at your own pace” course. I expect students to sign on to Canvas several times a week to complete the work. If you will not be able to do this, this is not the course for you. You should not plan to sign in and work on the class only hours before each deadline.

Success in this course relies upon your commitment to do the course work independently. If you prefer to have hands-on guidance and face-to-face interaction, take the in-person version of this class. To succeed in and enjoy this course, you need to be self-reliant, self-aware, motivated, disciplined, and focused. Also, since the majority of your input will be written rather than oral, you need to be able to express yourself clearly in writing.

Online courses require a high level of self-initiative, and they are well suited to students who possess this quality. To do well in this class you must have access to a dependable computer as well as reliable access to the Internet. The school has many, many computers available for your use—check out the library, TLC, and ASG computer lab. Your public library also probably has computers for use, but the time allowed may be limited.

Workload
Remember that for each three-unit sociology class, you should expect to spend nine hours per week on the class. This includes reading, taking exams, etc. I want you to be successful and starting off on the wrong foot is usually not a good indicator of success. Online courses require a high level of self-initiative and they are well suited to students who possess
this quality, especially short term sections. If you are taking a five-week class, that’s about 27 hours per week spent on this one class. For eight-week sections, that’s about 17 hours per week.

If you enrolled in the class, you should login to the class on Canvas starting on the first day of class. You should login as soon as possible to check out the syllabus and calendar. I strongly suggest you check them out as soon as you decide you want to take this class so that you will have some idea of the workload and due dates and times.

I use open source materials for many of my classes. These free sources are available in Canvas for you to view and/or print.

Class Format

Part of being successful in an online class is learning the material and the other part is being comfortable with the format so that you can access the material. If you are new to online courses I strongly suggest you investigate some of the online tutorials by accessing the guides.

The content of this course is the same as when I teach this class in a traditional format, with the exception that you will not be attending lectures. Canvas allows for class discussions that everyone will be expected to participate in and you will still take exams. These exams differ from my traditional format in that they are open book. However, they are rigidly timed and you will not have the time to look up more than a couple of items so it is imperative that you study the material well. There is also reading and writing required for any course I teach. Every assignment, test, etc that have due dates will be due by 11:59pm on that date.

Questions? Concerns?

Feel free to email me at any time katie.coleman@canyons.edu.

My office hours are MTWTh 12:30-1:30pm in SECO 307.

Best,

Katie Coleman
Professor, Department of Sociology
College of the Canyons