



Syllabus

Welcome to BYU Online!

This course is part of a small pilot of online courses at BYU. This course is a highly structured learning experience that meets the university's general education requirements and will mirror the intensity of the on-campus course. This course differs from on-campus courses and other online courses in the following ways:

1. **Course Content** – Aside from your textbook, all of the course content is contained online. You will also submit all your assignments and complete all your course quizzes online.
2. **Course Completion** – You can complete the course early, the only restriction is you cannot complete it before February 26th, 2015. There are due dates in the course, but the due dates are designed to give you far more flexibility than you would have in a traditional course.
3. **Orientation Meeting** – You are required to attend an initial class meeting. At this meeting, you will meet your instructor, course TAs and other members of the class. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the class and how it operates. Before you come to this orientation meeting, it is important that you read through the syllabus and become familiar with BrainHoney so that you are prepared to ask any questions you may have.
4. **Course TAs** – This course has two TAs that you can contact with questions about the course or course content. The TAs will also assist you in creating a course completion schedule and meet with you for the course checkpoints.
5. **Checkpoints** – Throughout the course you will be required to meet with one of the course TAs 4 times. These meetings will take place in Adobe Connect. These checkpoints will allow you to discuss your progress in the course and help you follow your course completion plan.

6. **Webinars** – There will be at least three prerecorded webinars for this course. These are recorded videos that will help with your understanding of some of the course topics and requirements.
7. **Discussion Board** – This course contains a monitored course discussion board. This discussion board will allow you to post, respond to and evaluate various topics related to the course material. The discussion board will be a great place for you to ask any questions that you have about the webinars or any other topic in the course.

As part of the pilot, we will be asking you to help assess the success and effectiveness of this course, the faculty member, the course delivery and the course support. Your participation in this assessment effort will be critical to future opportunities for online learning at BYU. Please be prepared to provide meaningful feedback about your experience.

Course TA Information

Your TA for this course is **Brinlie Clark** Please contact her if you have any questions, run into difficulties with the course, and to schedule checkpoints.

- ta_soc111@byu.edu (mailto:ta_soc111@byu.edu)
- 801-422-6238

[Click here to watch video.](#)

Remember, the TA is your first line of contact, and she will be able to help you with any issues that come up. Please contact her before you contact the instructor. She is looking forward to getting to know you!

You can also contact your instructor by sending email to alice.lapray@gmail.com (<mailto:alice.lapray@gmail.com>).

Course Prerequisites

This is an introductory course and thus there are no prerequisite courses. A student should be able to succeed in this class without any sociology or social science background.

Teacher Expectations

Your TAs and myself will answer your questions and provide you with timely and helpful feedback on your assignments. In return, we expect you to read the syllabus carefully and refer to it for the reading and assignment schedule. It will answer most of your questions concerning the course.

It is really important that you read the chapter in the text and the lesson material I prepared and understand the main points.

This is a college-level course and will require a reasonable level of effort. I encourage you to work on this course at a fairly steady pace. The work will go easier if you regularly submit assignments. It is best not to try to do a semester's work in two or three weeks.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course has three main objectives to guide your study of sociology.

1. **Understand Social Forces:** Enhance your understanding of how social forces influence your everyday life. The course is designed to help you have greater insights into why individuals, groups, and organizations behave as they do.
2. **Overview of Sociology:** Expose you to an overview of several substantive areas in sociology such as the family, crime, religion, education, and social class.
3. **Critical Thinking and Writing:** Further develop your critical thinking ability and your writing skills. The written assignments will foster analytic thinking and strengthen writing skills.

Required Textbook

You will need to purchase this textbook: John J. Macionis, *Sociology*, 15th edition, New Jersey: Pearson, 2013.

Macionis's *Sociology* is one of the leading texts in the field. The text offers a good introduction to sociology. It covers most of the foundational ideas of the discipline and is clearly written with many illustrations and examples.

At the end of each chapter is a "Making the Grade" section. It includes a summary of the material in the chapter and defines key concepts. This section really will help you make sure you understand the material.

At the end of the book are sample test questions. These are very valuable in helping prepare you for the exams in the class.

Required Materials

In addition to the textbook and website access, you will need these items to complete the checkpoints:

- Webcam – Any webcam will work. We recommend using the "Logitech HD Webcam C270" (it's available from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/Logitech-Widescreen-Calling-Recording-960-000694/dp/B004FHO5Y6/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1354287710&sr=8-1&keywords=Logitech+HD+Webcam+C270) (http://www.amazon.com/Logitech-Widescreen-Calling-Recording-960-000694/dp/B004FHO5Y6/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1354287710&sr=8-1&keywords=Logitech+HD+Webcam+C270)).
- Microphone Headset – Any microphone headset will work. We recommend using the "Cyber Acoustics Universal Stereo Headset AC-204" (again, it's available from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/Cyber-Acoustics-AC-204-Headset-Y-Adapter/dp/B0055CR9M0/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1354287751&sr=1-1&keywords=Cyber+Acoustics+Universal+Stereo+Headset+AC-204) (http://www.amazon.com/Cyber-Acoustics-AC-204-Headset-Y-Adapter/dp/B0055CR9M0/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1354287751&sr=1-1&keywords=Cyber+Acoustics+Universal+Stereo+Headset+AC-204)).

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Course Structure

The first requirement of the class is to read and understand the syllabus. I am willing to answer questions that you may have about the class, but make sure you carefully refer to the information in the syllabus and online

course material before you ask any questions. These tools will answer most of your questions concerning the course.

The next requirement is to read the text. Each lesson will tell you which part of the textbook you should read. You should read the required text before moving on in the lesson. Since you are not attending class and listening to lectures from a professor, it is absolutely necessary that you carefully read the text so that you understand the material. In addition, many of the multiple-choice questions contained in the examinations were prepared by Professor Macionis, the author of the text, and represent material presented in it.

Next, you are required to read the supplemental course material written by me. This material may overlap a little with the text on some important points, but it will also provide new information. The purpose of the supplemental material is to introduce you to important material that is missing or not fully discussed in the text, to reinforce important ideas, and, most importantly, to allow us to go a little more in-depth and to understand how the concepts in the text relate to your life. The material takes the place of the in-class instruction in a traditional course. Some chapters have much more supplemental material than others. It is important to note that just because a topic is not discussed in the course materials does not mean that is not important. It only means that I have nothing to add on the topic. You will be responsible to know the information in the textbook, whether or not it is also discussed in the manual.

This is a college-level course and will require a reasonable level of reading and effort. I encourage you to work on this course at a fairly steady pace. The work will go easier if you regularly submit assignments. It is best not to try to do a semester's work in two or three weeks.

Assignments

You will complete both computer-graded and written assignments during the course. You will submit all your written assignments electronically.

Checkpoints

You will be required to complete three checkpoints throughout the semester using Adobe Connect. These checkpoints will help to make sure you stay on track to finish the course and will give you a chance to discuss any questions or issues you may be having.

Participation Points

There will be 30 participation points available in the class. These points will be assigned at the end of the semester. To receive full participation points, you will need to complete all of your checkpoints on time, and participate in class discussion boards. There will be a new question/discussion topic posted to the boards each week. You must participate in at least **one** discussion every two weeks, or at least twice per month, to receive your participation points.

Short Writing Assignments

There will be six short writing assignments in the course. Each of these assignments will be one page, double spaced. They will give you a chance to apply the things you have learned to real world experiences. These assignments can be turned in anytime, but it is suggested that they be completed when they are presented in the course.

Note: See the individual instruction pages for the details of each assignment.

Individual Problem or a Social Issue 1

This assignment will require you to identify a problem in society today (crime, obesity, poverty, etc.) and look at explanations of the problem from an individual and societal viewpoint. This assignment will help you learn to apply the sociological perspective.

Newspaper Analysis 1

This assignment will require you to read a newspaper article, either in print or online. You will write a short paragraph summarizing the article and then analyze the article using one of the three main theories used in sociology. This paper will help you solidify your understanding of sociological theory and see how it applies to the real world.

Break a Norm

In this assignment, you will be asked to break some sort of societal norm, such as standing the wrong direction in a crowded elevator, and write a one page paper about your experience. This paper will help you learn about the power of norms in our society.

Volunteer

For this assignment, you will be required, sometime during the semester, to volunteer in your community for at least 2 hours. You will then write about your experience and how it relates to this class. This paper will help you see that you can make a difference in society and will help you apply the concepts from the class to the real world.

Newspaper Analysis 2

This assignment will be similar to Newspaper Analysis 1, but you will be looking specifically at an article that deals with some type of deviance. You will then analyze the article using a theory of deviance.

Individual Problem or a Social Issue 2

This assignment will be identical to Individual Problem or a Social Issue 1. You will choose a different issue and explain it using an individual and a societal explanation. Ideally, you should see an improvement in your ability to see the world through the sociological perspective.

Research Paper

Your critical thinking and writing will be strengthened by a 3–5 page research paper. You will select a topic that you are interested in, that relates to sociology, and will research that topic using academic journals as well as other sources. Please don't write a superficial description of a broad topic. Rather, explore in more detail a narrow focus. Your paper should contain information or ideas of which your parents, roommates, and children are unaware.

An overview of the entire project, as well as in-depth instructions for the outline, is presented in the Research Paper Outline instructions. The research paper will be written and submitted in three parts:

1. **Topic and Outline:** Submit a description of the topic that you have selected and a short outline of your paper (by the end of lesson 12). I will review your outline and give you advice about how to proceed to writing a rough draft.
2. **Rough Draft:** Submit the rough draft of your paper (by the end of lesson 16). I will read it, edit it, and give you some suggestions for your final draft.
3. **Final Draft:** Submit the finished draft of your research paper (by the end of lesson 19). Hopefully, you will utilize my suggestions to prepare your final draft of the research paper.

Be sure to do your best work on each part of the research paper assignment. All three parts will be graded.

Make sure that you do not procrastinate in turning in your outline and rough draft. Give yourself time to get them turned in, for me to provide feedback, and for you to apply that feedback for your final draft.

Note: You will **not** be able to submit the next part of the paper until you have my feedback on the previous part. You will also **not** be able to request your final exam until you have turned in the final draft of your research paper.

Review Quizzes

There will be four quizzes in the class. These quizzes follow lessons 6, 10, 15, and 21 and will help assess your retention and comprehension of the material covered in the class.

1. Quiz 1 covers lessons 1–6.
2. Quiz 2 covers lessons 7–10.
3. Quiz 3 covers lessons 11–15.
4. Quiz 4 covers lessons 16–21.

These quizzes will use questions very similar to the type of questions you will see on your exams, so use them to help prepare and make sure you have an appropriate understanding of the material. The questions on the quizzes will cover the material that you have read in the textbook and lessons.

Each quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice questions. The quizzes will be taken online. Upon completion of the quiz, the computer will immediately generate your score. I strongly encourage you to take the quizzes without looking in the textbook or lesson material for answers. That is the best way to prepare for the exams.

Statistics Quiz

There will be one quiz, after lesson 4, to make sure that you understand the information about statistics. This quiz will cover the information in the course materials, but not in the textbook. This quiz is worth 20 points.

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Exams

There will be two exams in the class.

- The Midcourse Exam covers lessons 1–10.
- The Final Exam is **not** comprehensive, and covers lessons 11–21.

Each exam includes 50 multiple-choice questions that have been prepared by Professor Macionis. I will select general, theoretical questions as opposed to those that ask you to recall some obscure detail.

Three essay questions will also be included, and you will select **two** to answer. It is important that you answer only **two** essay questions. If you answer all three, make clear which ones you would like me to grade. If you answer all three essay questions and do not indicate which you would like me to grade, I will grade the first two, regardless of which ones have the best answers. The three essay questions will be taken from the list of study questions in the Preparing for the Exam instructions.

The multiple-choice questions are each worth 1 point, and each essay counts as 25 points.

Important Exam Note

You will take your exam online at the Morris Center. You will need to schedule your exam time at least 2 days before you want to take the exam. Please read the “Preparing for the Exam” pages for details.

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Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the short writing assignments, your research paper, the three quizzes, and the three examinations. Points are assigned as follows:

Assignment	Points	Total
6 Short Writing Assignments	20 each	120
Statistics Quiz	20	20
4 Review Quizzes	10 each	40

Research Paper Outline	25	25
Research Paper Rough Draft	50	50
Research Paper Final Draft	125	125
2 Exams	100 each	200
Total Points Possible		580

Grading Scale

Grading will be according to conventional letter grades A through E. Here is how the letter grades are assigned:

A	93–100
A–	90–92
B+	87–89
B	83–86
B–	80–82
C+	77–79
C	73–76
C–	70–72
D+	67–69
D	63–66
D–	60–62
E (fail)	59 or below

Note: You must pass the final exam to earn credit for the course.

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Schedules

Course Schedule

I am providing you with a suggested course schedule. This schedule is designed around a class that meets on Tuesday and Thursday. It shows what lessons should be covered and when assignments and checkpoints should be completed and tests taken. If you want your class to be evenly spaced throughout the semester, I would strongly suggest following this course schedule.

However, since this is an online class, you are given some flexibility as to when you complete the work. I am also including firm due dates for each of the assignments and exams. These due dates come later than the suggested dates, usually by about two weeks. If assignments are turned in or exams are taken after these due dates, you will lose points for completing them late. You will lose 2% on the assignment/exam for every school day that the assignment/exam is late (Monday through Friday, unless there is a holiday). So, if your first newspaper analysis is due on January 13, and you do not submit the assignment until January 29, you will lose 10% on that assignment. Make sure you are paying attention and following the due dates so you do not lose those points.

Also, please notice that towards the end of the semester, the firm due dates move a lot closer to the suggested due dates. This is just to make sure that everything gets turned in by the end of the semester.

Date	Lesson	Assignment
September 1	Lesson 1	
September 3	Lesson 2	Individual Issue or Social Problem 1
September 8	Lesson 3	Newspaper Analysis 1 Checkpoint 1: We strongly suggest you complete the checkpoint by this day, to make sure you understand what the course entails. This is the add/drop deadline.
September 10	Lesson 4	Statistics Quiz
September 15	Lesson 5	
September 17	Lesson	Break a Norm

	6	
September 22		Quiz 1
September 24	Lesson 7	
September 29	Lesson 8	Volunteer
October 1	Lesson 9	
October 6	Lesson 10	Quiz 2
October 8		Newspaper Analysis 2 Checkpoint 2
October 13		Exam 1
October 15	Lesson 11	
October 20	Lesson 12	
October 22	Lesson 13	Research Paper Outline
October 27	Lesson 14	
October 29	Lesson 15	
November 3		Quiz 3
November 5	Lesson 16	
November 10		Research Paper Rough Draft
November 12	Lesson 17	
November 17	Lesson 18	
November 19	Lesson 19	
November 24		Research Paper Final Draft

December 1	Lesson 20	
December 3	Lesson 21	Individual Issue or Social Problem 2
December 8		Quiz 4 Checkpoint 3
December 10		Final Exam

Date	Assignment
September 22	Checkpoint 1
September 24	Individual Issue or Social Problem 1
September 29	Newspaper Analysis 1
October 1	Statistics Quiz
October 8	Break a Norm
October 13	Quiz 1
October 22	Quiz 2
October 27	Newspaper Analysis 2
October 27	Checkpoint 2
October 29	Exam 1
November 5	Research Paper Outline
November 17	Quiz 3
November 19	Research Paper Rough Draft
December 1	Volunteer
December 8	Research Paper Final Draft
December 10	Individual Issue or Social Problem 2*
December 10	Quiz 4*
December 10	Checkpoint 3*
December 18	Final Exam*

* These assignments (Individual Issue or Social Problem 2, Quiz 4, Checkpoint 3, and the Final Exam) will **not** be accepted late. They must be turned in by the deadline, no exceptions.

Any late assignments must be turned in by December 10. No exceptions.

Academic Honesty

In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, you are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle will result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Please call the Honor Code Office at (801) 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

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Published by the
Department of Independent Study
Division of Continuing Education
Brigham Young University
120 MORC
Provo, Utah 84602-1514
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