

## **IRB**

Welcome to this online course from Harvard.

For us to offer the best course experience possible, we'd like to ask you to answer a few questions about yourself.

Whether you are just browsing or you are determined to complete the entire course, the more we know about you, the better we can serve all students in this course. As one of the first students in this new, free offering, your responses will be especially important to us.

There are no right or wrong answers or responses, and your honest feedback is very important to us. After reading the consent document below, you may click the right arrow below to proceed.

### **General Information About Survey Research in HarvardX. Please Read then Click Below to Continue.**

#### **Participation is voluntary**

All survey responses are voluntary, students can skip any question at any time, and any responses have no effect on student assessments or participation.

#### **What is the purpose of this research?**

We are interested in learning more about our participants' backgrounds, interests, and motivations, and encouraging engagement with the course, so we can do the best possible job designing, evaluating and refining this course. With this research we will understand how to best encourage engagement with online education .

#### **How long will I take part in this research?**

Your participation will be the duration of the course.

**What can I expect if I take part in this research?**

As a participant, you will be provided questions about yourself and other short prompts, which we will use to understand your participation in the course.

**What are the risks and possible discomforts?**

If you choose to participate, we anticipate minimal risks and only the minor discomfort that might accompany online surveys.

**Are there any benefits from being in this research study?**

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from taking part in this research. However, possible benefits include your being more engaged with the course and better serving future students who participate in online courses.

**If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected? What happens to the information you collect?**

Your instructor will not be able to identify your personal responses during the course and researchers will not attempt to identify individuals. Your data will not be made identifiable to anyone other than researchers and course staff, and it will be aggregated for analysis and publication purposes.

**If I have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research study, who can I talk to?**

The researcher for this study is Dustin Tingley who can be reached at 617-496-3590, 1737 Cambridge St., K208, Cambridge, MA 02138, [dtingley@gov.harvard.edu](mailto:dtingley@gov.harvard.edu)

- If you have questions, concerns, or complaints,
- If you would like to talk to the research team,
- If you think the research has harmed you, or
- If you wish to withdraw from the study.

This research has been reviewed by the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University. They can be reached at 617-496-2847, 1414 Massachusetts Avenue, Second Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138, or [cuhs@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cuhs@fas.harvard.edu) for any of the following:

- If your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team,
- If you cannot reach the research team,
- If you want to talk to someone besides the research team, or
- If you have questions about your rights as a research participant.

Please print or save a copy of this form for your records. **If you agree to participate, please click to the survey.**

**mrmi**

How important were the following reasons in choosing to enroll in this course?

	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Slightly Important	Not Important
To participate in an online community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To better serve my community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging in lifelong learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancing my career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancing my formal education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To earn a certificate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To learn about course content	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To learn from the best professors and universities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Curiosity about online learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To access learning opportunities not otherwise available to me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Course Intent

Do you intend to earn a verified certificate?

Yes

No

Unsure

How many course lectures do you intend to complete?

All lectures

Most lectures

A few lectures

No lectures

How many course assessments (quizzes, tests, etc.) do you intend to complete?

All assessments

Most assessments

A few assessments

No assessments

How do you intend to participate in the forums?

I will contribute to discussion threads frequently

I will contribute to discussion threads occasionally

I will view discussion threads, but will not contribute

I will not visit the discussion forums

How many hours do you intend to spend on this course each week? *Please enter a whole number.*

How many online courses have you completed in the past?

*Please enter a whole number. If you have not completed any, enter "0".*

How often do you set goals before learning something new?

Always

Most of the time

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

How familiar are you with the topics in this course?

Extremely familiar

Very familiar

Somewhat familiar

Slightly familiar

Not at all familiar

## Demographics

What is your gender?

Male

Female

Specify other

What is your year of birth? (e.g., 1985)

## What is your current employment status?

Employed

Unemployed

Full-time student

Retired

Other

## Are you currently, or have you ever identified yourself as, an instructor/teacher?

Yes

No

Unsure

## Are you currently enrolled in a school, college, or university?

Yes

No

## What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Doctorate/Ph.D.

Masters

Professional

Bachelors

Some College

Associate

Secondary/High School

Middle school/Jr. High

Elementary

None

What is the highest level of education that **any of your parents** have completed?

Doctorate/Ph.D.  
Masters  
Professional  
Bachelors  
Some College  
Associate  
Secondary/High School  
Middle school/Jr. High  
Elementary  
None

How would you describe your English language skills?

Fluent  
Proficient  
Intermediate  
Basic  
Weak

In which country were you born?

-- Choose a country --

How worried, if at all, are you that some people in this course will draw conclusions about you, based on what they think of your home country?

Extremely worried  
Very worried  
Moderately worried  
Slightly worried  
Not at all worried

*The following two questions are adapted from the United States federal census.*

## Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano

Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (e.g., Argentinian, Colombian, Cuban, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Puerto Rican, Salvadoran, Spaniard)

## What is your race? *Select all that apply.*

White

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

American Indian or Alaska Native

Black or African American

Asian

Other:

## Teaching

You indicated that you are, or have been, an instructor or teacher.

Which of the following positions have you held in an educational system?

Teacher

Administrator

Instructional Coach

Educational Data Specialist

Other

Are you, or have you ever, taught material related to this course?

Yes



No

Unsure

Are you currently employed as an instructor/teacher?

Yes

No

In what settings did your instruction take place? (Please click all that apply)

Elementary / Primary School

Secondary School / Middle School/High School

College or University

Outside the scope of traditional schools.

## Optional Questions

### Employment/School

In which industry do you work?

If you work in multiple industries please choose the one that best describes your field of work.

In which industry was your last job?

If you worked in multiple industries please choose the one that best describes your field of work.

In which industry do you think your future job will be?

If you anticipate a job that fits multiple industries, please choose the one that best describes your anticipated field of work.

In which industry do you work, or would be most likely to work if you were to work?

If you anticipate a job that fits multiple industries, please choose the one that best describes your anticipated field of work.

-- Choose an industry --

Within the industry you selected above, how would you describe your job (current, past, or anticipated)?

-- Choose a description --

You indicated that you are enrolled in a school, college, or university.

Are you enrolled as a full-time or part-time student?

Full-time

Part-time

Are any of your current courses similar to this online course?

Extremely similar

Very similar

Somewhat similar

Not similar at all

What kind of institution you are enrolled in?

Primary/elementary school

Junior secondary/junior high/middle school

Secondary/high school

College/university (2-year program)

College/university (4-year program)

Graduate or Professional School

Other

## University Affiliation

Researchers from Harvard University are interested in learning more about the experiences of students taking this course, in order to better understand the HarvardX experience and to improve courses for future students. At present, this study is limited to adults over 18.

Are you interested in participating in an interview to share your experience in this course? If you are interested, a HarvardX researcher may contact you by email about participating in a study of HarvardX students.

Yes

No

Do you have any affiliations with Harvard? *Check all that apply.*

Current Student

Alumnus/Alumna

Staff

Faculty

## OLEI

Why did you enroll in this course?

Does not apply to me

Applies to me

General interest in topic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relevant to job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relevant to school or degree program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relevant to academic research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To improve my English skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experience an online course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For career change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meet new people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Earn a certificate/statement of accomplishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For fun and challenge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For personal growth and enrichment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Course offered by prestigious university/professor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Take with colleagues/friends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Intervention: Affirmation

This short activity is designed to help you succeed in the course.

Below is a list of characteristics and values, some of which may be important to you, and some of which may be unimportant.

Please select the 2 or 3 values that are **most important** to you.

Relationships with family or friends

Learning for the sake of learning

Physical attractiveness

Romantic values

Sports and athletics

Musical ability/appreciation

Religious/spiritual values

Business/managerial skills

Creativity

Artistic skills/aesthetic appreciation

Sense of humor

Spontaneity/living life in the moment

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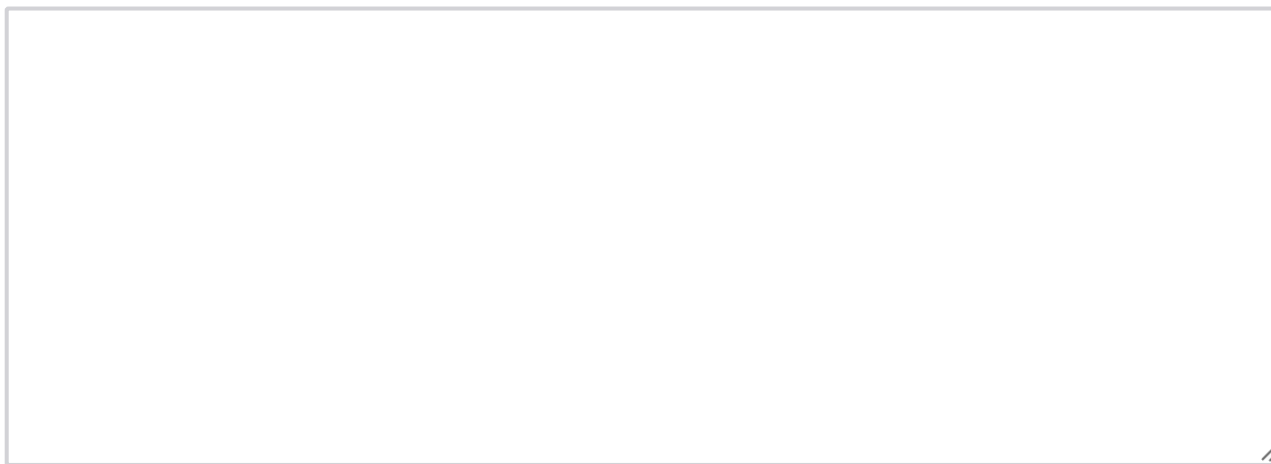
Click Count: 0 clicks

Now consider the 2 or 3 values that are most important to you:

*$\{q://QID48/ChoiceGroup/SelectedChoices\}$ .*

**How does taking this course reflect and reinforce your most important values?**

*Please write at least a paragraph. Focus on your thoughts and feelings, and don't worry about spelling, grammar, or how well written it is.*

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin gray border, intended for the respondent to write their answer. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small icon consisting of two parallel diagonal lines.

Previous students really appreciated writing something to remind themselves about how their most important values are reinforced by taking this online course.

To give you the chance to remind yourself, we would like you to write a note to your future self about your experience and what you've learned so far.

**Write about how you can gain strength from the fact that taking this course reinforces your most important values.**

We know it can be difficult to write that way, but we believe it will be particularly meaningful for you if you write as though your present self is speaking directly to your future self.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin gray border, intended for the user to write their response. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a small icon consisting of two diagonal lines forming a corner, likely a hint or a 'next' button.

If you like, you can save your writing on your computer or send it as an email to be reminded and motivated over the coming weeks.

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## **Intervention: Short Plans**

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Please write down a clear, concrete plan to follow through on your goals in the first week of the course. Plan-making can be a helpful tool in MOOCs! Successful students in previous courses have made detailed plans for how they will engage in the first week of the course.

In the text box below, **write out your plans to complete tasks for the course this upcoming week. Please be as specific as you can!**

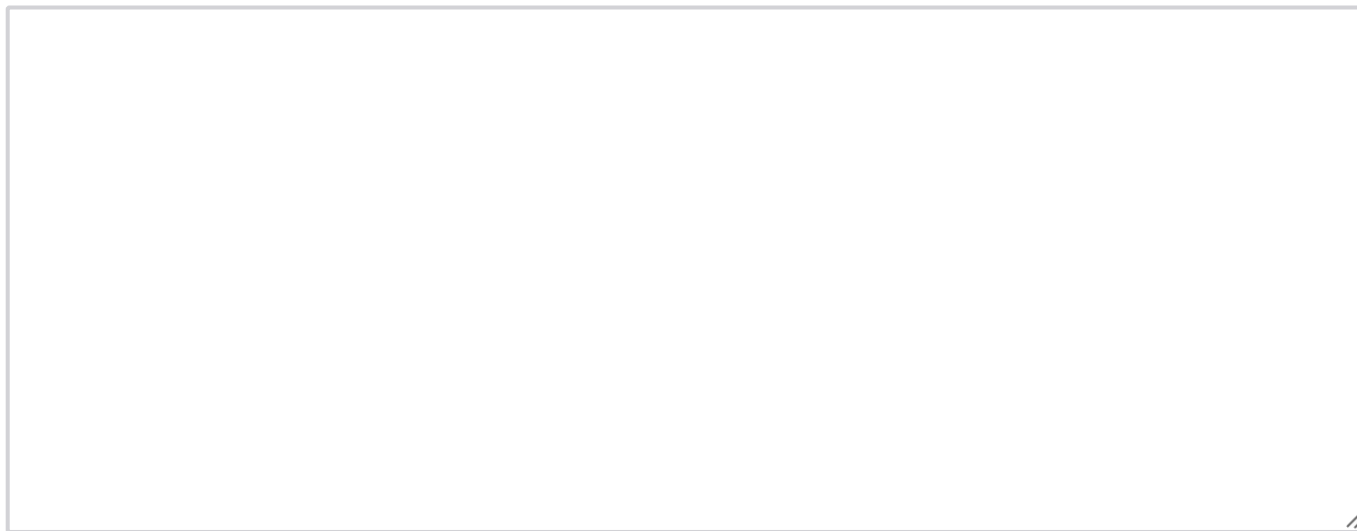
You might find it helpful to consider these questions when you make your plans:

**When and where** do you plan to engage with the course content?

**How much time** will you spend studying in the first week?

**What will you do** to ensure you complete the required course work?

**How will you overcome** potential obstacles in the first week?

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin gray border, intended for the user to write their plan. It occupies the central portion of the page below the guiding questions.

Here are some examples to inspire your plan-making (replace them with your own):

“I will watch videos Wednesday night after work, and complete the readings on Saturday morning.”

“If I haven't done the week's work by Sunday, then I will prioritize the videos to stay on schedule.”

“I will add these times to my calendar so that I don't forget.”

“If I have trouble understanding the material, I will visit the class discussion forum.”

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It's great that you have written down your plans. They will be a useful tool for overcoming difficulties and achieving your goals.

Take another look at your plans below. How will you make sure to remember them? For example, take a moment now to: write them down on paper, email them to yourself or a friend, add to a calendar with a reminder, or tell someone about them!

### **YOUR PLANS FOR THIS WEEK**

`#{q://QID103/ChoiceTextEntryValue}`

## **Intervention: Long Plans**

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Please write down a clear, concrete plan to follow through on your goals in the course. Plan-making can be a helpful tool in MOOCs! Successful students in previous courses have made detailed plans for how they will engage throughout the course.



In the text box below, **write out your plans to complete tasks for the course. Please be as specific as you can!**

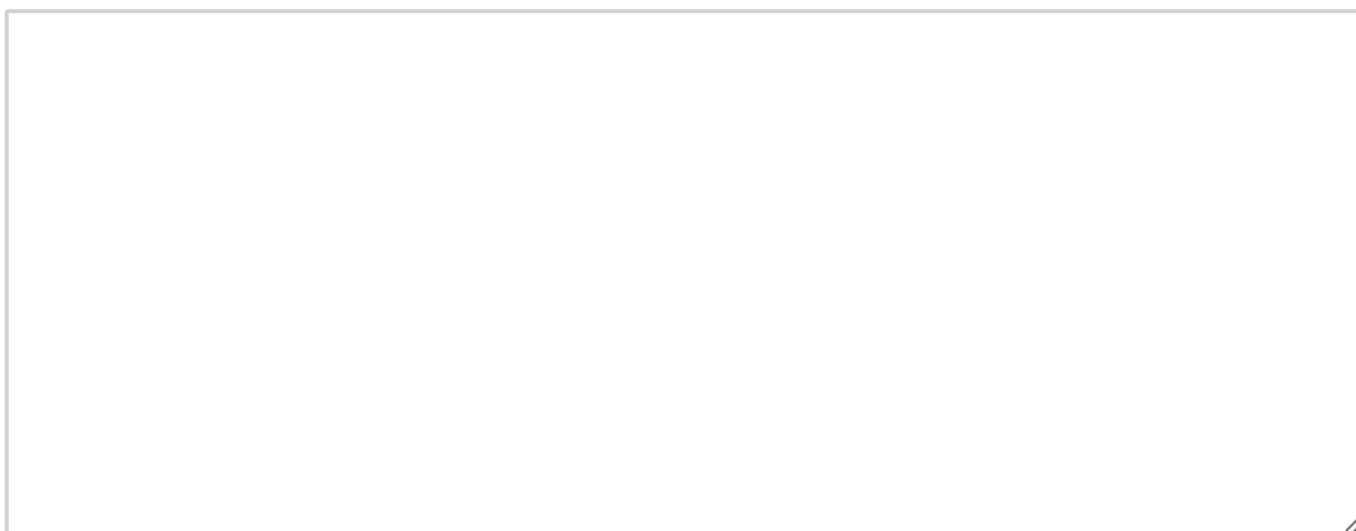
You might find it helpful to consider these questions when you make your plans:

**When and where** do you plan to engage with the course content?

**How much time** will you spend studying in the course?

**What will you do** to ensure you complete the required course work?

**How will you overcome** potential obstacles in the course?

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin gray border, intended for the user to write their plans. It occupies the central portion of the page below the guiding questions.

Here are some examples to inspire your plan-making (replace them with your own):

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“I will add these times to my calendar so that I don't forget.”

“If I have trouble understanding the material, I will visit the class discussion forum.”

It's great that you have written down your plans. They will be a useful tool for overcoming difficulties and achieving your goals.

Take another look at your plans below. How will you make sure to

remember them? For example, take a moment now to: write them down on paper, email them to yourself or a friend, add to a calendar with a reminder, or tell someone about them!

### YOUR PLANS FOR THIS COURSE

\$\_{q://QID123/ChoiceTextEntryValue}

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**End**

Finally, how likely are to complete this course?

Please indicate the probability that you will have completed enough work to earn a certificate by the end of the course.

A "100" means that you **certainly will** finish the course, while a "0" means that you **certainly will not** finish the course.

The probability that I will complete this course is ...

0    10    20    30    40    50    60    70    80    90    100

Thank you for your response! Your information will help us improve this course and future courses.

Now you are ready to begin the class.