

Course Tour Video Transcript: Sarah Jacobson, assistant professor of sociology

Hi everyone. This is Dr. Jacobson and I am just here to give you a quick overview of how to navigate this course. Many of you are probably already familiar with brightspace some of you may not be so hopefully this will be an overview that gives you a nice sort of bird's-eye view of the kinds of things you should be paying attention to in here.

This page you should already be familiar with and you have been able to see some of these things that show up here now because you went through and you read the course syllabus hopefully and then you completed the course contract and so now what I want to do is guide you through a couple of other things that I would like for you to pay attention to. The first major thing you'll notice is that up here in this area there is a content link this content link takes you to all of the different areas of the course and when you click on it it will should take you to here or it might take you to this overview page something like that. You will work through and what you'll notice here is that all of the materials are laid out here for you from day one and so that can be really really convenient for some of you who may be you have a vacation coming or you've got a lot of family stuff going on at a particular weekend. This allows you to work ahead when you need to and I do have a note about that in the reading assignments area of lessons for the course rather it's called lessons and activities in the introduction to the course area. There is information in here that I'd like you to take a look at but just in terms of this overview here one thing that you'll see is that in each of the modules so right now I'm in the very first module called introduction to the course and in each of these modules the structure is exactly the same. You'll see that there is always going to be a section for reading assignments and then lessons and activities and then assessments that's the stuff that you're graded on and then extras this is stuff that I provide mostly discussion boards usually for people to continue conversely about particular issues that they found interesting those kinds of things. Go in the extras area and those are things that are not graded and so you'll see and I'm just gonna go down here and click a couple of these so that you can see each of the modules again is set up in exactly the same way with exactly the same structure so that you know what to expect now when you look at these assessments areas. You'll see that typically you'll have a couple of things to do in each of these modules you will usually have a quiz and then you will also have some sort of a discussion that I asked you to do and so you should make sure that you pay really really close attention to the guidelines and the prompts that I'm looking for in those discussions. Those quizzes and discussions and any assigned work that you have to do that is graded is always going to be in this area called assessments but you can also access it in other ways.

I'm gonna go up here to the top again and you'll notice that up here there is a link for quizzes a link for Dropbox and a link for discussions. If you come into the class and you know I just have to quickly come in here and do the first quiz for the for the theory module you can just just click straight on quizzes and you can go to this thinking sociologically quiz and take it right there. Notice though that when you are in the thinking sociologically module I'm going to go back in here to content and the thinking sociologically module under assessments and you'll see that you also see the thinking sociologically quiz right there. It's exactly the same thing just two different ways to access it and the same thing is true for the discussion topics that are posted in here you will see that the discussion topic here in the thinking sociologically module is a topic that I'm asking you to address applying theory to a particular video. I'm asking you to watch if you go up here to discussions you will also see that that particular discussion is also right here. That should all be pretty self-explanatory. One thing I did also want to show you is I'm gonna make this discussions list a little bit more easy to look through so I'm gonna hide all of these topics so we just see the overall areas so the overall areas in the discussions link.

The first one includes all of the module discussions so these are all of the discussions that you are being graded on and then you'll see this second section which is for further discussion so some of the feedback I've gotten from students in the past has basically been that you know I shut down the discussion boards for a particular topic when that discussion is due and sometimes they'd like to talk a little bit more about it or they maybe have seen something a little bit later on in the course that they want to bring to people's attention and so they wanted a way to do that so I've created these discussion boards in here as a way for people to do that. There's a place here for assignment help so you have two assignments in particular that will be uploaded into the class Dropbox so these are beyond the discussions and the quizzes and so you will go in here to ask me any questions that you have. There's also a general area and this area has an area for you to ask any sort of general questions that you have about the course if there's something that's not making sense to you something that doesn't have to do with a particular assignment then you can post that question here. There's also a community chat area in here so that you can just go in there and talk to each other about whatever it is that you want to talk about that maybe doesn't have anything to do with the class. Maybe there are some of you who live in the same area and you would like to form a study group or maybe some of you who work in the same field want to create a discussion board to talk about your field and how sociology comes together with it or not. Feel free to do that in there and then finally there is an area for library assistants for some of the assignments that you're going to have. That's just a really brief overview. Anytime I have grades for you they will always be posted here in brightspace so you have a really easy to access way of seeing them. Typically for the discussions I will post a class-wide feedback video that everyone sees and then try to keep fairly brief individual comments so I can get you some pretty quick feedback so if you're interested in feedback for your discussion scores you'll want to make sure that you not only take a look at the individual feedback that I give you but also the videos that I make for the class after each one of these discussions. Again I think that's really just the down-and-dirty a overview of what this course looks like in brightspace.

As always if you have any questions at all and you're not sure about something and you want to reach out there are a few ways to do that you'll see here in this contact me area here on the first page that my email address of course is listed there. This is my office phone but I will say that over winter I am almost never in my on campus office so probably the best way to reach me is either to send me an email or some of you may be familiar with zoom. If some of your other instructors have used zoom in another class I'm just gonna briefly show you what that looks like looks like. Zoom basically we can use it has a chat feature it has a video chat function as well and we can use that to hold individual office hours. I can also use it to set up maybe a lot of you have a question about a particular thing we can all kind of meet in the same virtual video chat room and that way it's a really easy way for us to connect so I'm just gonna quickly show you what this looks like. One thing I'm also going to say here before I do this is that you'll see that in the technical resources area of the introduction to the course module there are links for zoom and if you have an iPhone or an Android phone there are also apps that go along with those phones for zoom. It is something that is pretty nice to have and pretty nice to use to stay connected for us so I am going to open this up so that you can see what this is going to look like when you click on that. Now if you want to meet with me I don't just hang out in here so you will want to make sure that you maybe shoot me an email first and say hey can we meet I want to talk to you about whatever it is and that way I can plan to meet you here that we can have this discussion. When this pops up there I am when this pops up sometimes it will pop up as a video automatically sometimes it might ask you I'm not exactly sure why but there it is you'll see here that there is only one participant in here but you can also use your phone to zoom in and talk to me as well. I'm just actually gonna do that here

really quickly I am going to just join this meeting that I just created just based on that link that I just clicked on. It's super easy it asks you to put your name in so I did that oh my goodness there I am and you'll see that here I am in two places because one of me is on my phone and one of me is on my computer so there's a lot happening here but this is a nice way for us to be able to stay in contact with each other. If you want to meet with me about absolutely anything at all if you have questions about your- I'm gonna get rid of this because it's very strange for me to see like eight of myself at one time. If you have any questions and you want to ask me anything at all it could be about a discussion it could be about you know the final project anything at all please feel free to just shoot me an email set up a quick time and we can just do this really really quickly. We can also do some screen sharing on here so if you're not sure about how something works I can sort of model it for you on my screen and I can also kind of take a peek at your screens so that we can make sure that we are quite literally on the same page. That is how you are going to reach me and all of that information is right there on the main page there.

So again if you have any questions please feel free to reach out in the meantime start working through the course. I know we have a lot to get through in a short period of time but I really look forward to working with all of you.