

## Indiana Tech SS2800: Introduction to Sociology

These examples are from a five-week online course I developed and taught in Blackboard for Indiana Tech, geared toward working adult and non-traditional students. I kept the same basic structure from my development of COMM 2100: Introduction to Cinema.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard interface for the course 2015\_Spring\_SS2800EOL51. On the left is a navigation menu with links to Announcements, Key Information, Course Syllabus, Professor Profile, Module One through Module Five, Course Evaluation, Discussion Board, Send Email, My Grades, Tools, Help!, and DEV Resources. The main content area is titled 'Announcements' and includes a 'Create Announcement' button. Below this, a message states: 'New announcements appear below this line'. The first announcement is titled 'Assigned Reading' and was posted on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 10:43:06 AM EST. The text of the announcement reads: 'Now that module three work is underway, I wanted to take an opportunity to stress the importance of completing the assigned reading for each week. Please check the syllabus, read the assigned chapters, review the chapters and take notes, and follow up by looking at the lecture summary and playing the audio lecture of the assigned chapters. Students who do not complete the reading generally do not do well on quizzes and do not do well on the final exam during module five! Quizzes are intended to assess your understanding of and ability to apply concepts from the assigned chapters. If you are using outside sources to inform your quiz response, it is unlikely you will demonstrate that understanding and ability to apply course concepts when you submit your quiz response.' The announcement is attributed to Kimberly Myers. The second announcement is a welcome message posted on Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 2:01:00 PM EST, which reads: 'Welcome to online learning @ Indiana Tech' and 'SS 2800 - Introduction to Sociology', also attributed to Kimberly Myers.

The screenshot shows the Blackboard interface for the course 2015\_Spring\_SS2800EOL51, specifically the 'Course Syllabus' section. The page has a yellow header with the title 'Course Syllabus' and three tabs: 'Build Content', 'Assessments', and 'Tools'. Below the header, the 'Course Syllabus' section is expanded, showing an attached file named 'SS 2800 Syllabus.pdf' (32.604 KB). The text of the syllabus states: 'Please download and print this course syllabus. It contains the most essential information about the course coverage and requirements, policies and guidelines related to the online course, how your learning will be assessed and your course grade determined, and, most importantly, the due date for each assignment. A course syllabus is a contract between you and the University. As your course instructor, I will be doing my best to follow this contract to facilitate your learning as well as to properly assess your learning.' Below the syllabus, there are three expandable sections: 'Course Schedule', 'Instructor Policies', and 'Additional Resources'.



## Course Schedule

Week	Topics / Readings	Assignments / Due Dates
2/22	<u>Module One</u> Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3	Self-Introduction: 2/28 Discussion board post: 2/28 Issue Analysis Assignment: 2/28 Quiz #1: 2/28
3/1	<u>Module Two</u> Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Discussion board post: 3/7 Discussion response: 3/7 Patterns of Social Interaction Assignment: 3/7 Quiz #2: 3/7
3/8	<u>Module Three</u> Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9	Discussion board post: 3/14 Discussion response: 3/14 Video Response Assignment: 3/14 Quiz #3: 3/14
3/15	<u>Module Four</u> Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 12	Discussion board post: 3/21 Discussion response: 3/21 Violating a Norm Assignment: 3/21 Quiz #4: 3/21
3/22	<u>Module Five</u> Chapter 15	Discussion board post: 3/28 Discussion response: 3/28 Final Exam: 3/28

Since this course is typically taken by students who have completed few to no other courses (unlike COMM 2100, which is taken by seasoned students), there are more instructional materials and guiding materials built in. One example is the “Before you begin Week 1. . .” pointers.

**Module One**

[Build Content](#) [Assessments](#) [Tools](#)

**Before you begin Week 1. . .**

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-Quizzes consist of essay topics/questions and will be released weekly, on the Sunday of each module week at 12:00 a.m. There is only one exam: the final exam, which is available at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday of week 5.

-Assignments are released weekly on the Sunday of each module week at 12:00 a.m..

-Don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or concerns! I will respond to your messages within 24 hours Monday through Friday and by the next business day during evenings, weekends or holidays. If you don't receive a reply within those time frames, please assume I did not receive your email and send it again.

-As you approach each weekly module, follow these tips to help you succeed:

- 1) Review all of the module requirements before you begin working on the module.
- 2) Look at the assignments required for the next module as you finish each module, as some of them may require planning throughout the week.
- 3) Read the assigned chapters and review module lectures and notes before completing quizzes, assignments and discussion boards.
- 4) Make sure all work is your own.

-If you need a place to vent, relax, chat about course or off-topic items, feel free to post in the "Andorfer Commons" section in the Discussion Board. You're welcome to post there anonymously.

**Tutorial on Success in SS2800**

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Attached Files: [Success in SS2800](#) (Package File)

While I also include weekly Adobe Breeze presentations over assigned chapters, this course also includes an introductory lecture to assist students in building strong study habits and tools for success in the course.

**How to Earn an "A" in SS2800**

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SS2800 EOL  
Indiana Tech

**Seven Simple Steps**

- Step 1: Follow instructions.
- Step 2: Complete the assigned reading.
- Step 3: Do not plagiarize or cheat!
- Step 4: Complete assignments and assessments on time.
- Step 5: Announcements and instructor contact. . .
- Step 6: Review, review, review.
- Step 7: Prepare for the final exam.

Outline	Thumb	Notes	Search
Slide Title		Duration	
How to Earn an "A" in ...		00:10	
Seven Simple Steps		05:51	

6 Minutes 2 Seconds Remaining

Slide 1 / 2 | Stopped 00:00 / 00:10

Slide 2 / 2 | Stopped 00:00 / 05:51

5 Minutes 52 Seconds Remaining