

# FAQs for Cannon's Online Classes

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## 1. Can I add your class?

No. I allow the registrar to overfill the class, so I don't add students to the class once all seats are taken (*even if someone drops*). In an online class, it requires extra effort on my part, grading assignments, and interacting with individual students. You may have wonderful reasons for wanting to add the course (e.g., keeping your car insurance, it's the last class before graduation, clearing a previous 'F', passion for the subject, playing baseball). However, there is *no incentive for me* to add students: it is unfair to me and to the enrolled students who deserve my full attention.

## 2. If I take this class, do I ever have to come to campus?

No. You can purchase your books online, all assignments and exams are done online, and there are no face-to-face meetings. Further, there are no prearranged times that you must "attend" class—all work is done asynchronously through the course website and email.

## 3. I'm thinking about majoring in Psychology, what should I do?

- a. See a counselor to find out which courses you need to transfer to the specific university that interests you. Virtually all universities will require Psych 100, Psych 219, and Math 219. Other requirements vary by university.
- b. Get involved in the Psychology Club and/or Psi Beta (the Psychology Honor Society).
- c. Visit the Psychology Department webpage ([www.sccollege.edu/psychology](http://www.sccollege.edu/psychology)) for basic information on the major and future careers.
- d. Visit the American Psychological Association's webpage (<http://www.apa.org>) for more extensive career information.

## 4. I emailed you with a question about the class, why didn't you email me back?

If you **are not enrolled** in my online class, then I simply do not have time to answer individual questions from *prospective* students—I get several hundred every semester. I must devote my time to enrolled students.

If you **are enrolled** in one of my online classes, then you may not get a reply if:

- a. You may not have included enough information for me to identify you. For example, if I get an email from [bigmama-cheeseburger12@someemail.com](mailto:bigmama-cheeseburger12@someemail.com) with no signature, then I have no idea who you are, or what class you are in.
- b. If a bunch of enrolled students email me the same question, then I will typically respond to everyone via the announcements on Blackboard, rather than to individual student's emails.
- c. You asked a question that is already clearly answered in the syllabus or these FAQs.
- d. You expected an answer to arrive too quickly—it might take up to a day during the week (Mon-Thu) or longer if you emailed me during the weekend (Fri-Sun) since I am not always checking email on my days off.

## **5. I'm not very good with computers, email, or the internet. Can I still take this class?**

*I don't recommend it, as I don't allow "My computer ate my assignments" excuses.* Either sign up for a face-to-face section, or try an introduction to computers and the internet course to familiarize yourself with the virtual environment.

## **6. I enrolled in the course, but I am not sure how to "get started"—what do I do?**

On the first day of class, you need to sign into the course website. You can follow the link to online classes from the [www.sccollege.edu](http://www.sccollege.edu) website. The syllabus and all materials can be accessed in the site.

## **7. I'm enrolled in the course, but I'm having trouble logging into/navigating in the course website, or submitting assignments, what should I do?**

**Note: you will NOT be able to login to the course website before the first day of the semester.**

I am not a technical advisor, I teach psychology, therefore any questions or problems related to using your computer (Examples: "How do I download Internet Explorer? "Why doesn't this show up on my screen?" "How come I can't login to Blackboard?" should be directed at the helpdesk.

Technical help is available via [blackboard@sccollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@sccollege.edu).

## **8. What book(s) will I need for the course?**

Check with the SCC bookstore, as they have the most current information and pricing. You may, of course, order the book elsewhere if you find a better price, but you should still contact SCC's bookstore or check the syllabus to identify the correct text.

## **9. Can I get a copy of the syllabus/course materials before the class starts?**

No. I change the syllabus to accommodate changes in the course every semester. So I am usually making edits up until the start of a new semester. It's available in the course website on the first day of class.

## **10. Can I make-up a quiz or an exam? Can I take the quiz/exam early or late? Can I have more time to complete my assignments? Can we work around my vacation?**

No, this is not a self-paced course. There are specific due dates in which you must complete all assignments, however, you may complete the assignments at any time before the due dates to allow for individual flexibility. Please budget your time accordingly to avoid emergencies that may interfere with completing assignments on time.

## **11. How do I know what grade I'm getting in the course?**

Scores will be posted on Blackboard in the TOOLS section. It is **YOUR** responsibility to keep track of your scores and report mistakes *immediately* to the instructor (e.g., don't wait until the 12<sup>th</sup> week to mention a mistake from week 7). Write down your scores in a notebook and keep it handy. Take your total score and divide it by the current points possible (if you seriously can't do division, then you need some big time math tutoring!) and compare the answer to the grading scale in the syllabus.

## **12. When will scores/grades be posted?**

Scores for quizzes and exams are available *immediately* after you complete and submit the assessment. Scores for discussion boards or written assignments can take *up to one week* depending on my current time constraints and course load.

### **13. Is there any way I can still pass this course/get a better grade in the course?**

Unfortunately this question is usually asked late in the semester when there is nothing you can do to significantly raise your grade. I have no way of knowing whether you: blew off the course, lacked the skills needed to succeed, or the material was just too difficult for you. What I do know is that, barring a rare error, **YOU** are ultimately responsible for the grade you receive—I just add your points and divide by the total. If you think a bad grade stings as a consequence of flaking out all semester, wait until you join the “real world” and the consequences are more serious (e.g., getting fired).

If your question is more along the lines of “Is it still possible for me to get a C at this point in the semester, or should I drop?” then you need to get out your calculator and compare the points remaining in the course with the minimum required to get a ‘C’. I won’t do the calculations for you, nor will I advise you as to whether to drop or not. Every student has his or her own needs and values—a few students I’ve had in the past have dropped a course because they didn’t want to get a ‘B’ whereas others are perfectly happy with a passing ‘D’. Do the math and reflect on your own personal values.

In any case, hopefully, you will reflect on your mistakes (failed to study, procrastinated, took too many classes) and do better next semester.

### **14. Is there any way for me to get extra credit?**

See the syllabus, as this varies by class.