Course Overview

Sociology 134, Section 20
Professor David Schweingruber
www.iastate.edu/~soc.134

Taking a large lecture

✓ Why a large lecture?
  • Efficiency
✓ Challenges of taking a large class
  • Little accountability (attendance, reading, testing)
  • Little sense of belonging
✓ Strategies
  • Personal responsibility
  • Study groups
  • Interaction with professor

Syllabus, textbook & web page

✓ Class web page: www.iastate.edu/~soc.134
✓ Syllabus available on web page in PDF format
✓ Also on web site
  • PowerPoint slides
  • Assignments, deadlines, announcements
  • Additional reading
✓ Course theme: People are both cause and consequence of society (p. 2)

Lecture

✓ Schedule of assignments (pp. 7-8)
  • Read assignment before lecture; lectures build on readings
  • Tests cover both lecture and textbook
  • I reserve the opportunity to add readings from text book web site
✓ Possible lecture topics
  • How is income distributed in the U.S and are the rich really getting richer?
  • Why do whites have a higher average income than blacks?
  • How many sexes are there and why do we believe there are two?
  • Who are Generation X and Generation Y?
  • How do people learn to become marijuana users?
  • How do roadside monuments tell U.S. history?
  • Is McDonald’s the model for organizations of the future?
  • With whom do Americans have sex and how often do they have it?
  • How is BILly Graham able to convert so many people?
  • Why did college students riot during last VEISHEA?

Troubled young people

✓ The cheater
✓ The discourteous student
  • The kissers
✓ “I forgot about the exam”
  • Acceptable excuses: funeral, illness (with doctor’s note), family emergency
  • Unacceptable excuses: work, social events, sleeping in
  • Excuses must be submitted using form on web site
  • Scheduled make-up exams are the following day
  • All subsequent tests use essay format
✓ Miscellaneous troubled young people
Academic Integrity

Speaking and acting truthfully are skills acquired through practice. These skills are indispensable for successfully living and working with other people. If you practice dishonesty, you will endanger all of your relationships. You will be a bad spouse, a bad parent, a bad employee and a bad citizen.

Participating in academic life is an important opportunity to practice truthfulness since dishonesty is incompatible with and abhorrent to the purposes of the university. Therefore, students in this course are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty.

Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarism, cheating on exams, and attempting to claim credit for work not performed (such as volunteer hours and attendance at campus lectures).

The standard punishment for academic dishonesty is failure in the course and referral to the Dean of Students. Students who are expelled from Iowa State or otherwise punished for academic dishonesty are encouraged to see their punishment as an opportunity to reflect upon their failure to practice truthfulness and to commit themselves to a new life of integrity.

Grading

✓ Three tests—50 multiple choice questions each
  • First two tests on Sept. 25, Oct. 30 (during regular class time)
  • Final exam TBA
  • Questions are over lecture and text
✓ Course project—20 points (pass/fail)
✓ Mini-Essays—10 essays (5 pts each)
✓ Final grading scale
  • A (195-220), A- (190-194), B+ (185-189), B (180-184), B- (175-179),
  • C+ (170-174), C (160-169), C- (155-159), D+ (150-154), D (145-149), D- (135-144), F (below 135)
✓ There are no other ways to earn points

Mini-essays

✓ You will write short (250 word minimum) essays on 10 chapters
✓ Goal: apply a sociological concept or idea from the chapter to an aspect of contemporary life. Your paper should demonstrate your understanding of the concept by explaining how your topic illustrates the concept, and/or using the concept to make sense of the topic.
✓ Students are expected to write thoughtful essays that reflect their honest effort to grapple with class material.
✓ 5 points for excellent essay, 3 or 1 points for job less than well done.
✓ Must be posted on WebCT site. Due dates in syllabus.
✓ You may substitute three essays:
  • Course survey
  • Essays on up to two approved campus events. The essay should describe the event (e.g., the speaker’s thesis) and what you learned from it.

Sleeping

Sleep is an important part of a student’s life. You should schedule your life so that when the class is meeting you are wide awake in class and not home asleep.

Each semester a few students in this course fail an exam by sleeping through it. Often they tell me their sleep was actually caused by their devotion to the course—they were up so late studying that they slept through their alarm or dozed off in the library. However, in American society sleep is generally considered an unacceptable excuse for missing scheduled events, such as work, school, and social occasions. In order to be a competent member of society, you must be awake at certain times.

If you are concerned about sleeping through an exam, schedule an appropriate system of alarm clocks, wake-up calls, and wake-up visits.

Course project

✓ Three class project options
  • Volunteer project: 16 hours, 3-page paper
  • Photo essay: 1-2 page introduction, 10-20 photos
  • Research paper: 5-7 page paper
  • All three projects have two deadlines: Sept. 29, Nov. 17
✓ Possible fourth project option
  • Research participation

Sociology Central

Barbara Brockway
Sara Clayton
Jessica Neilson
Mary Popma

Go to Soc Central for:
Scheduling make ups
Class standing info
Tutoring over material
Reviewing lectures
Reviewing tests

120 East Hall
294-8411
soccentr@iastate.edu
Contacting the professor

404 East Hall
Office Hours:
W 2:10-4 p.m.
Or by appointment
Or just drop by
dschwein@iastate.edu
294-4079 (office)

Leave message by
e-mail, not voice mail

David Schweingruber
Pronounced: Schwine grohber
Goes by "Dave" or
"Professor Schweingruber"