Course Overview

Sociology 134, Section 17
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. 6-7)
  - Read assignment before lecture; lectures build on readings
  - Tests cover both lecture and textbook
- 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?
  - Why do men have a higher average income than women?
  - 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 student riot during last VEISHEA?

Grading

- Three tests—50 multiple choice questions each
  - First two tests on Feb. 14, March 28
  - Final exam TBA.
  - Questions are over lecture and text
- Final grading scale
  - A (130-150), A- (125-129), B+ (120-124), B (115-119), B- (110-114), C+ (105-109), C (100-104), C- (95-99), D+ (90-94), D (85-89), D- (80-84), F (below 80)
  - Students who pass (score above 80), can raise one grade (e.g., B+ to A-) by completing an extra credit project

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

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Extra credit

✓ Three extra credit options
  • Volunteer project: 16 hours, 3-page paper
  • Photo essay: 1-2 page introduction, 10-20 photos
  • Research paper: 5-7 page paper
✓ There are no other ways to earn points

Sociology Central

Bethany Larsen
2 more TBA

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:
  WF 2-3 p.m.
  Or by appointment
  Or just drop by
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Leave message by e-mail, not voice mail

David Schweingruber
Pronounced: Schwine groo ber
Goes by “Dave” or
  “Professor Schweingruber”