

# SOCIOLOGY 134 (17): COURSE OVERVIEW

Professor David Schweingruber  
[www.public.iastate.edu/~soc.134](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~soc.134)

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## IOWA STATE INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY OPTIONS

- Sections 1-15: Professor Besser
  - 2 lecture + 1 discussion section per week
- Section 16: Professor Krier
  - 3 lectures per week
- Section 17: Professor Schweingruber
  - 3 lectures per week
- Section XW: Professor Krier
  - On-line version (WebCT)

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HOMER GOES TO COLLEGE

## TAKING A LARGE LECTURE

- Why a large lecture?
  - Efficiency (an important modern trend)
- Challenges of taking a large class
  - Little accountability (attendance, reading, testing)
  - Little sense of belonging
- Strategies
  - Personal responsibility
  - Study groups
  - Interaction with professor
  - Sociology Central

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## SYLLABUS, TEXTBOOK & WEB PAGE

- Textbook: Newman's Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life, 7th edition
- Class web site: [www.public.iastate.edu/~soc.134](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~soc.134)
  - Syllabus available on web site (pdf)
  - Lecture slides, deadlines, announcements, additional reading
- WebCT page used for mini-essays, course survey, grades
- Course theme: People are both cause and consequence of society (p. 2 of syllabus)

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## 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?
  - 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 marihuana 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 ISU students riot during previous VEISHEAs?

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## TROUBLED YOUNG PEOPLE

- The cheater
- The discourteous student
  - The kissers
- "I forgot about the exam!"
  - "I slept through 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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## 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.

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## 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.

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## GRADING

- Three tests—50 multiple choice questions each
  - First two tests on Feb. 16, March 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

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## 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: Feb. 20, April 10
- Possible fourth project option
  - Research participation

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## MINI-ESSAYS

- You may write a short (250 word minimum) essay on each chapter
- 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.
- Top 10 scores will count toward final grade
- 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.
- You have 17 opportunities to earn 50 possible points

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# SOCIOLOGY CENTRAL

*Genevieve Henricks*  
*Dan Wittrock*

Go to Soc Central for:  
Scheduling make-ups  
Class standing info  
Tutoring  
Reviewing lectures  
Reviewing exams



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# YOUR PROFESSOR

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I prefer messages via  
e-mail, not voice mail



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

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