

Sociology 134, Sections 2 & 3

Introduction to Sociology

Spring 2015

Section 2: MWF 10-10:50 AM

Section 3: MWF 11-11:50 AM

127 Curtiss Hall

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I am typically in my office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. If you want to make sure I'll be there when you want to meet, make an appointment by email.

Help Center:	118 East Hall
E-Mail	soc134@iastate.edu
TAs	Emily Grzywacz, Catherine Peters, Megan Tokheim & Jackie Wienand

Course Theme and Objectives

Sociology 134 (sections 2 & 3) is an introduction to the discipline of sociology. The theme of the course is: *People are both cause and consequence of society*. The class has three major objectives:

1. Students will become familiar with the sociological way of understanding the social world.
2. Students will become familiar with how people construct social reality.
3. Students will become familiar with the ways that society shapes people's lives through processes like socialization, social control and stratification. In other words, students will develop a sociological imagination, the ability to connect private troubles to public issues.

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this class. The required readings are in an online course pack. Students are expected to read each assigned reading before the class in which it will be discussed. The schedule of assignments is in this syllabus and on Blackboard and will be updated as necessary.

Blackboard

The course has a Blackboard page. It can be used for checking your grades, posting your assignments and getting additional course information and material. Lecture slides will be posted after the lectures are presented.

Soc 134 Help Center

The Soc 134 Help Center, located in 118 East Hall, is a course office designed to provide you with assistance in the class. It employs four outstanding undergraduates who are assigned to sections 2 & 3: Emily Grzywacz, Catherine Peters, Megan Tokheim & Jackie Wienand.

The TAs are available for tutoring, answering questions about course policies and material, discussing your grade, and providing you with other assistance.

Offices hours for the TAs will be available on Blackboard.

Grades

Students have the opportunity to earn up to 320 points. Points are distributed as follows:

Exams

Exam 1	50 points
Exam 2	50 points
Exam 3	50 points
Exam total	150 points

Journal Entries & Survey

Sociological concept journal entries	75 points (15 entries X 5 points)
Campus lecture journal entries	20 points (4 entries X 5 points)
Course survey	10 points
Journal total	105 points

Course projects (two project maximum)

Photo essay	20 points
Library research project	20 points
Volunteer project	20 points
Course project	40 points (two projects)

Research projects

Human nature project	20 points
Internal conversation project	5 points
Research project total	25 points

Final grades will determined by the following scale. Earning the designated number of points will earn you the listed grade.

A	240 points	B-	200	D+	160
A-	230	C+	190	D	150
B+	220	C	180	D-	140
B	210	C-	170		

Important note: There are no ways to earn points in the course other than those described in this syllabus either during the course or after it ends.

Exams

There will be three exams, each of which will be worth 50 points. Exams will cover both lectures and the text.

The exams should be taken in one of the LAS testing centers. The first exam must be taken between Wednesday, Feb. 11 and Tuesday, Feb. 17. The second exam must be taken between Wednesday, March 25, and Tuesday, March 31. The final exam time will depend on university policy.

Students are responsible for following all testing center rules. Students who have already taken the exam are not allowed to discuss the contents of the exam with students who have not.

Since students have five days to take the exam, excused absences will only be given for clearly unforeseen events, such as serious illness or family emergency. It is your responsibility to contact the Help Center if are requesting a make-up exam.

Students who do not take the final exam during the semester because of an excused absence will need to take an incomplete in the course until they are able to take the exam.

Sociology Journal

Over the course of the semester, students will compile a journal consisting of short essays (at least 250 words). Students can write up to 19 of these essays, which are worth up to five points each.

Sociological concept essays

For each of the sociological concept essays, students will write an entry in which they apply a sociological concept or idea from recent lectures and/or readings to an aspect of contemporary life. (Appropriate concepts will be suggested in class.) For example, you could use the chosen concept to analyze a personal experience, an interaction you observe, a news story, movie, book or web page. Your essay should demonstrate your understanding of the concept by explaining how your topic/example illustrates the concept, and/or using the concept to make sense of the topic/example.

Each journal must total at least 250 word, not including words in your title and heading. Journals with less than 250 words will receive zeros.

Students can earn up to five points for every essay to be assigned as follows:

- a. The essay focuses on a sociology concept from lecture or reading. (1 point)

It must be obvious from the essay what the concept is.

- b. The concept must be clearly and accurately defined and it must be obvious from the essay that the student understands the concept. (1 point)

Receiving a zero on part a will automatically result in a zero on part b.

- c. The essay focuses on an aspect of contemporary life. (1 point)

It must be obvious from the essay what the aspect of contemporary life is. This example must not repeat material from readings or lecture.

- d. The essay connects the concept and aspect of contemporary life by explaining how your example illustrates the concept and/or using the concept to make sense of the example. (1 point)

Receiving a zero on part a or c will automatically result in a zero on part d

- e. The writing is college-level with no more than minimal errors in sentence construction, grammar, spelling and punctuation. (1 point)

Journals are due every Wednesday (except during the first week) on Blackboard. (Due dates: Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, March 4, March 11, March 25, April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22 & April 29). An additional essay, due on April 24, can use any concept in the class.

Late journals will not be accepted.

Lecture Essays

Students may write up to four additional journal entries about university lectures/events related to sociology. This option requires attending a university lecture/event and writing a short essay (at least 250 words) about it. This journal entry should describe the event (e.g., the speaker's thesis) and what you learned from it. Appropriate events will be announced on the class Blackboard site. You are welcome to suggest events. Only approved events can be the topic of essays. Essays must be posted within 48 hours of the event.

Course Projects

Students may complete one or two course projects. The projects are graded on a pass/fail basis and are worth 20 points. The projects should be submitted on the course's Blackboard page. There are three main options:

1. Photo essay project

For this assignment, you will put together a photo essay that illustrates a sociological concept.

Requirements

1. Your photo essay must illustrate a sociological concept. The essay will state clearly what your concept is.
2. Your photo essay will begin with a short (1-2 page) introduction describing your concept and how you have illustrated it with your photos.
3. The essay will include 10-20 photos, each of which must be TAKEN BY YOU. This project involves taking photos, not finding them online.
4. Each photo will have a caption connecting it to the sociological concept. The entire essay (introduction, photos & captions) should work together

Part 1 of the essay is due **Feb. 18**. Part 1 will consist of a short summary of your project that explains how your photo essay will illustrate a sociological concept. Your ideas will be examined and commented upon by Help Center TAs to help guide you on your final portfolio.

Your finished project (part 2) is due **April 13**. An electronic version of your essay (e.g., a PDF) should be submitted on Blackboard.

2. Volunteer project

This project gives you credit for volunteering at an Ames organization for 16 total hours and writing a short paper. A list of the approved organizations will be available on the course web page. You may not volunteer at an agency that is not on the approved list. Different organizations require different scheduling commitments so you should choose one that fits your schedule. You are required to do all of the volunteering between Aug. 25 and Dec. 5. Part one of the assignment (**due Feb. 18**) is completion of a volunteer form, which will be available on the course web site. Part two of the assignment (**due April 24**) requires you to write a short paper about how your volunteer work is connected to sociology. The paper must be at least three full pages.

Volunteers should bear in mind that they are representatives of Iowa State and should act responsibly and respectfully at all times. Any misconduct in your capacity as a volunteer will be considered a violation of the course's academic honesty policy.

3. Library research project

This project requires you to write a library research paper (5-7 pages) on a sociological topic of interest to you. The paper will be based on three sociology peer-reviewed journal articles, all of which address the same general topic. For this assignment you will find three articles that address your research question, read the articles and write a paper that explains and synthesizes their findings.

Part one (due **Feb. 18**) is a one-page outline of the paper. Part two (due **Nov. 21**) will be your final paper. **Details about the assignment will be available on the course Blackboard page.**

Project format

All papers should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman and double-spaced.

Class Survey

Students can earn 10 points (complete by Tuesday night) or 5 points (complete by Sunday night) by taking the course survey during the first week of class. Your answers on the survey will be anonymous. Information from the survey will be used in class. Survey data may also be used in sociological research, but you may opt out of having your data put to this use. Details about the survey will be made available in class.

Research Projects

Students can earn points for participating in a pair of research projects, the human nature project and the internal conversation project. More information about these projects will be made available in class and on the course Blackboard page.

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 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.

Classroom Courtesy

Students are expected to show courtesy to their classmates during lecture by refraining from talking or other distracting behavior, and by arriving before class begins and not leaving until class is over.

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. 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 class, schedule an appropriate system of alarm clocks, wake-up calls and wake-up visits.

Special Accommodations

Students should address any need for special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you believe you need them. Accommodations will be provided to students with a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) from the Disability Resources (DR) office (294-6624). DR is located in Room 1076 of the Student Services Building.

Sociology Code of Ethics for Human Relations

The Department of Sociology is committed to providing a professional and educational environment that is free of discrimination and harassment. The department's Code of Ethics for Human Relations and the Procedures for Filing Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment are posted on the bulletin boards on all five floors of East Hall.

Course Schedule

(subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

- (1) Mon., Jan. 12 Course overview
- (2) Wed., Jan. 14 A Sociological Perspective on Iowa State University
Berger, Peter L. 1963. "Sociology as an Individual Pastime." Excerpt from *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective*. Anchor Books.
- (3) Fri., Jan. 16 A Sociological Perspective on Iowa State University
Mon., Jan. 19 No class

The Sociological Imagination

- (4) Wed., Jan. 21 The Sociological Imagination
Mills, C. Wright. 1963. "The Promise." Excerpt from Chapter 1 of *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford University Press.

Overview of Human Nature Project

SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #1 DUE

- (5) Fri., Jan. 23 Emerging Adulthood
Arnett, Jeffrey Jensen. 2004. Pp. 3-17 in *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from Late Teens through the Twenties*. Oxford University Press.

Overview of Volunteer Project

- (6) Mon., Jan. 26 The Meritocracy Myth

The Social Construction of Reality

- (7) Wed., Jan. 28 The Social Construction of Time
Roy, William G. 2001. "Time." Chapter 2 in *Making Societies*. Pine Forge Press.

Overview of Photo Essay Project

SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #2 DUE

- (8) Fri., Jan. 30 The Social Construction of Time, continued

Overview of Library Research project

- (9) Mon., Feb. 2 The Social Construction of Animals

- (10) Wed., Feb. 4 The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "Being Sane in Insane Places." *Science* 179:250-258.

SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #3 DUE

Selves in Society

- (11) Fri., Feb. 6 Socialization

Becker, Howard. 1953. "Becoming a Marihuana User." *The American Journal of Sociology* 59(3):235-242.

Overview of internal conversation project

- (12) Mon., Feb. 9 Social Order in Emergency Situations

Becker, Howard. 1982. "Culture: A Sociological View." *Yale Review* 71 (summer). Reprinted as Chapter 1 in *Doing Things Together*. 1986. Northwestern University Press.

- (13) Wed., Feb. 11 Review for Exam #1

SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #4 DUE

*** Exam #1 testing period Wednesday, Feb. 11 (noon)-Tuesday, Feb. 17 (5 p.m.) ***

Selves: Performing, Rule Following & Rule Breaking

- (14) Mon., Feb. 16 Performing Together

Schweingruber, David; Sine Anahita; and Nancy Berns. 2004. "'Popping the Question' when the Answer is Known: The Engagement Proposal as Performance." *Sociological Focus* 37(2):143-161.

- (15) Wed., Feb. 18 Performing Violence

SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #5 DUE

PART ONE OF COURSE PROJECTS DUE

- (16) Fri., Feb. 20 Historical Monuments
Loewen, James W. 1999. "Some Functions of Public History," "The Sociology of Historic Sites," "Historic Sites Are Always a Tale of Two Eras," and "Ten Questions to Ask at a Historic Site." *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*. The New Press.
- (17) Mon., Feb. 23 Emotions
Smith, Allen C. III, and Sherryl Kleinman. 1989. "Managing Emotions in Medical School: Students' Contacts with the Living and the Dead." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 51(1):56-69.
- (18) Wed., Feb. 25 Deviance
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #6 DUE
- (19) Fri., Feb. 27 Labeling Deviants
Chambliss, William. 1973. "The Saints and the Roughnecks." *Society* 11(1):24-31.
- (20) Mon., March 2 Power & Deviance
- (21) Wed., March 4 Gender & Violence
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #7 DUE
- (22) Fri., March 6 Campus Riots
Social Change
- (23) Mon., March 9 Meanings of Marriage
Coontz, Stephanie. 2005. "The Radical Idea of Marrying for Love," chapter 2 in *Marriage, a History*. Penguin.
- (24) Wed., March 11 Meanings of Family & Sex
Bogle, Kathleen. 2008. "From Dating to Hooking Up," chapter 2 in *Hooking Up: Sex, Dating, and Relationships on Campus*. New York University Press.
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #8 DUE
- (25) Fri., March 13 The Social Organization of Sex
*** Spring Break (March 16-20) ***
- (26) Mon., March 23 Sex, concluded
- (27) Wed., March 25 Review for Exam #2
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #9 DUE
*** Exam #2 testing period Wednesday, March 25 (noon)-Tuesday, March 31 (5 p.m.) ***
Fri., March 27 NO CLASS
- (28) Mon., March 30 Rationality, Bureaucracy & McDonaldization
Ritzer, George. 2004. "An Introduction to McDonaldization." Pp. 1-19 in *The McDonaldization of Society*, Revised New Century Edition. Pine Forge.
LIBRARY RESEARCH PROJECT DUE

- (29) Wed., April 1 Demographic Change
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #10 DUE
- (30) Fri., April 3 Generations
- (31) Mon., April 6 Social Movements
- (32) Wed., April 8 Social Movements
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #11 DUE
- Social Inequality***
- (33) Fri., April 10 Stratification from Cradle to Grave
- (34) Mon., April 13 Income Inequality
PHOTO ESSAY RESEARCH PROJECT DUE
- (35) Wed., April 15 Poverty
Johnson, Allan. 2008. "The One Thing" & "The Individualistic Model Doesn't Work." Pp. 13-25 in *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*. Temple University Press.
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #12 DUE
- (36) Fri., April 17 The Social Construction of Race
- (37) Mon., April 20 White Privilege
McIntosh, Peggy. 1988. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies."
- (38) Wed., April 22 The Black-White Income Gap
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #13 DUE
- (39) Fri., April 24 The Social Construction of Beauty
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #14 DUE (ANY CONCEPT IN CLASS)
VOLUNTEER PROJECT DUE
- (40) Mon. April 27 Sociology of Gender
Roy, William. 2001. "Gender." Pp. 110-139 in *Making Societies. Pine Forge*.
- (41) Wed., April 29 The Gender Pay-Gap
Williams, Christline L. 1992. "The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the 'Female' Professions." *Social Problems* 39(3):253-267.
SOCIOLOGY JOURNAL ENTRY #15 DUE
- (42) Fri. May 1 Review for final exam

*** The final exam testing period will be determined by university policy ***

Appendix A: Course Objectives for Purposes of the Course's "Continuous Improvement Plan"

Beginning with Fall 2013, courses with over 300 students at Iowa State are required by state law to have a "continuous improvement plan." For purposes of that plan, the course objectives of this course are:

"Students will be able to define and understand key sociological concepts, viz., (1) the sociological imagination, (2) the social construction of reality, (3) socialization, (4) social control, (5) stratification, and (6) social movements."

Students should be expected to be tested over these six concepts on their exams.

Appendix B: Grade Worksheet

Exams

Exam #1 _____/50

Exam #2 _____/50

Exam #3 _____/50

Exam Total _____/150

Journal entries & Survey

Course survey _____/10

Journal entries _____/75 = (1)___ + (2)___ + (3)___ + (4)___ + (5)___
(6)___ + (7)___ + (8)___ + (9)___ + (10)___
(11)___ + (12)___ + (13)___ + (14)___ + (15)___

Campus lectures _____/20 = (1)___ + (2)___ + (3)___ + (4)___

Journal/survey total _____/105

Course projects (choose two of three)

Photo project _____/20 (pass/fail)

Library project _____/20 (pass/fail)

Volunteer projects _____/20 (pass/fail)

Course projects total _____/40

Research projects

Human nature _____/20 (pass/fail)

Internal conversation _____/5 (pass/fail)

Research project total _____/25

_____/150 + _____/105 + _____/40 + _____/25 = _____/320
Exams Journals Course projects Research projects Total