Class Description
This course is about group dynamics within and between groups. I will teach the course from an interdisciplinary, social psychological perspective. I will assume that students already have a background in social psychology, since either Psych 280 or Soc 305 are prerequisites for this course. The course will consist of lectures, reading assignments, quizzes, exams, and an optional extra credit opportunity. There will be no term papers. Participation in class will be encouraged, but not graded.

Textbooks and Reading Assignments
Readings will come from one required textbook, plus a number of articles on e-Reserve. The textbook is:


Blackboard Quizzes
There will be 17 Blackboard quizzes (one for each chapter of the textbook). See Blackboard for availability and due dates. These quizzes are “take-home” and “open book.” No make-up quizzes will be allowed. In total, these quizzes will be worth 30 points, approximately 20% of your final course grade.

Exams
There will be 4 exams, worth 30 points each. These exams are “closed book” exams, and they will take place in a proctored Testing Center (room 60 Carver Hall or 2552 Gillman). Each exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, or essay questions. If a student misses an exam, he/she will be allowed to take a comprehensive make-up essay exam during finals week. No other make-up exams will be offered.

Grading
The final class grade will be based on the sum of the 17 quizzes and 4 exams. Grading will be follow a standard grading scale, 100-90% for A range, 89-80% for B range, etc. See the homepage for a more detailed grading scale.

Extra Credit
Students may earn 10 extra credit points by finding a relevant journal article and presenting this information to the class. See a detailed description of this extra credit opportunity on Blackboard. Also, extra credit points may occasionally be given for attendance.

ISU Policy
Academic Dishonesty. The class will follow Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Academic misconduct in any form is a violation of Iowa State University Student Disciplinary Regulations and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: copying or sharing answers on tests or assignments, plagiarism, and having someone else do your academic work. Depending on the act, a student could receive an F grade on the test/assignment, F grade for the course, and could be suspended or expelled from the University. See the Conduct Code for more details and a full explanation of the Academic Misconduct policies. http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html

Disability Accommodation. Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact me to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with me, you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the Disability Resources Office, located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.
Dead Week. This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook http://www.provost.iastate.edu/resources/faculty-handbook.

Harassment and Discrimination. Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation. If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

Classroom Disruption. Should any student disrupt the instructor’s ability to ensure a safe environment, control the class agenda, and/or deliver the approved curriculum, the instructor has the right to ask that the disruptive action cease immediately. The responsible student should cease the disruption and utilize non-disruptive means for expressing disagreement or concern.

Contact Information. If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Exams

Topic 1. Introduction to Group Dynamics

Topic 2. Studying Groups

Topic 3. Inclusion and Identity

Topic 4. Formation

Topic 5. Cohesion and Development

Exam 1 February 10, 2014
Topic 6. Structure

Topic 7. Influence

Topic 8. Power

Topic 9. Leadership

Exam 2 March 7, 2014

Topic 10. Performance

Topic 11. Decision Making

Topic 12. Teams

Topic 13. Conflict

Exam 3 April 9, 2014
Topic 14. Intergroup Relations

Topic 15. Groups in Context

Topic 16. Groups and Change

Topic 17. Crowds and Collective Behavior

Exam 4 Finals Week May 5-9, 2014