

“Six Degrees of Separation” INTD 101, Fall 2007

Mondays, 10:30 – 11:20, ISC 114

Dr. Gregg Hartvigsen, Office in ISC 344, Office Hrs: MWF 9:30 – 10:20 AM, or by appointment
 Text: Mark Buchanan. 2002. Nexus: Small Worlds and the Groundbreaking Theory of Networks

Expected Learning Outcome #1: Have fun quantifying your social network. You will learn interesting, scientifically timely concepts about your connectedness in social circles and how other systems seem to be wired in a similar way. Along the way you will build a graph of your social network (see accompanying description). I apologize for forever changing the way you view your place in society! (Just wanted that in writing.)

Expected Learning Outcome #2: Get to know a professor. When I was in college the professors seemed pretty intimidating. I think it might help you down the road to find out, in an informal setting, what one professor is like (even if he is really intimidating).

Expected Learning Outcome #3: Develop valuable skills and study techniques that will prepare you for other, more demanding courses. We’ll discuss life and academics here at Geneseo. We’ll chat about study skills, problems you’re having, and share success stories. We’ll discuss the game of being a student, perhaps what it takes to be a good student, and what it’s like to be a professor of students like you! You’ll write a paper and get some input from me. You will be a discussion co-leader for two of the topics. You will be responsible for guiding the discussion – NOT summarizing the topic. As leader you will develop and ask questions and bring to the discussion ideas that extend beyond the reading. These are all things that will be useful in your other classes.

Grading:

Paper	40%
Discussion Leadership	20%
Contributions to discussions	40%

You will do well if you attend class, participate, lead a great discussion, and write an interesting, insightful paper. You will not pass if you do not lead the discussion or do not write the paper or do not participate in discussions.

Attendance: I expect you to come to all meetings prepared (having done the reading), awake, and ready to participate. Plan to provide your input when others are guiding the discussions, as you hope they do when you lead the group.

Detailed schedule (C# = chapter number from Buchanan text):

Date	Topic	Reading (Chapter)	Discussion Leader
8/27	Introductions		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
9/3	NO CLASS		
9/10	Strange Connections	Preface + C1	
9/17	Strength of Weak Ties	C2	
9/24	Small Worlds	C3	
10/1	Brain Works	C4	
10/8	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS		
10/15	Small-World Web	C5	
10/22	Accidental Science	C6	
10/29	Rich Get Richer	C7	
11/5	Costs and Consequences	C8	
11/12	Tangled Web	C9	
11/19	Tipping Points	C10	
11/26	Breaking Out, Small-World Style	C11	
12/3	Laws for the Living	C12	
12/10	Beyond Coincidence	C13	
12/14	Final Exam*		

* You are required to come to this but if you don't it won't count against you.