

**Sociology 3550, Organizations in Society**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 1:50**  
**Dixie State University**

**Matthew Smith-Lahrman, Instructor**

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**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm  
Or by appointment

**The Course:**

This course introduces students to the ways sociologists study organizations and organizational behavior. We will examine organizations from both macro and micro-theoretical perspectives, as well as examine the structures and cultures that exist within typical organizations.

**Course Objectives:**

Students completing Organizations in Society will:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by organizational sociologists;
- demonstrate an understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline and how it is applied to the study of organizations;
- demonstrate an understanding of the relational and bureaucratic organizational forms as the main theoretical perspectives sociologists use to understand complex organizations.

**Text:**

Mary Godwyn and Jody Hoffer Gittel. *Sociology of Organizations*. Sage.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on three in-class essays, one term paper, a group-led discussion week, and attendance at class sessions. The weight of the essays, paper, discussion, and attendance in determining your final grade are as follows:

Essays:	15% each = 45% total
Term Paper:	20%
Group-led Discussion:	25%
Attendance:	10%

**Essays:**

Three times during the semester (September 23, October 30, and December 11) you will take an in-class essay. I will make available a number of essay questions two classes before you take them. I will choose a few of these questions for the actual essay. You will be allowed one 5\*7 card for notes to take the essay.

**Term Paper:**

You will write a paper in which you apply concepts we've learned in class to your own first-hand observations of a local organization. I'll make available a Term Paper Assignment on August 26, the paper is due on October 25.

**Group-led Discussion:**

You will be a member of a group that will lead a week-long class discussion on one of the sections of our text. I will make available the discussion assignment on September 6, at which time we'll form our groups and assign discussion weeks and text sections.

**Attendance:**

An essential element of this course is the discussions we'll have during class time. Therefore, 10% of your grade will be based on attendance. Attendance grades will be determined as follows:

90% attendance or better = A  
80% attendance or better = B  
70% attendance or better = C  
60% attendance or better = D  
Less than 60% attendance = F

Official school and health related absences, with documentation, will be honored.

NOTE: YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF YOUR LETTER GRADES, NOT ON YOUR ACCUMULATION OF POINTS.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all assignments to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to [www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu) and select "dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

### Course Schedule

#### Week & Topics

#### Readings

##### Week #1

August 19-23

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL SOCIOLOGY

RELATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORM

"Introduction," "Part 1," #2

##### Week #2

August 26-30

RELATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORM

#3, #4, #5, #6

**Make Term Paper Assignment Available, Monday, August 26**

##### Week #3

September 2-6

BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATIONAL FORM

"Part II,"

**No Class, Monday, September 2**

**Make Group-Led Discussion Assignment Available, Friday, September 6**

##### Week #4

September 9-13

BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATIONAL FORM

#8, #13

##### Week #5

September 16-20

COORDINATION OF WORK

"Part III,"

**Make In-Class Essay #1 Questions Available, Wednesday, September 18**

##### Week #6

September 23-27

COORDINATION OF WORK

#19, #20

**In-Class Essay #1, Monday, September 23**

##### Week #7

September 30-October 4

AUTONOMY AND CONTROL

"Part IV," #22, #23,

Week #8

October 7-11

AUTONOMY AND CONTROL

#25, #26, #27

**No Class, Friday, October 11**

Week #9

October 14-18

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

"Part V", #29

Week #10

October 21-25

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

#30, #34

**Make In-Class Essay #2 Questions Available, Friday, October 25**

**Term Paper Due, Friday, October 25**

Week #11

October 28-November 1

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT

"Part VI," "Part VII"

**In-Class Essay #2, Wednesday, October 30**

Week #12

November 4-8

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT

#36, #41

Week #13

November 11-15

DIVERSITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS

Part VII

**Group-Led Discussion, All Week**

Week #14

November 18-22

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING AND CHANGE

Part VIII

**Group-Led Discussion, All Week**

Week #15

November 25-29

NEW TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES

Part IX

**Group-Led Discussion, Monday, November 25**

**No Class Wednesday, November 27 or Friday, November 29**

Week #16

December 2-6

NEW TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES

Part IX

**Group-Led Discussion, Monday, December 2, and Wednesday, December 4**

**Make In-Class Essay Questions Available, Wednesday, December 4**

**Last Class, Friday, December 6**

Week #17

**In-Class Essay #3, Wednesday, December 11, 12:00-2:00pm**