

Sociology 3550, Organizations in Society
Fall 2012
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 - 1:50
Dixie State College of Utah

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. 2012. *Sociology of Organizations*. Sage.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on three essays and attendance at class sessions. The weight of the essays and attendance in determining your final grade are as follows:

Essay #1: 30%
Essay #2: 30%
Essay #3: 30%
Attendance: 10%

Essays:

You will write three essays relating to the readings from the course. Essays will be no more than five pages each. I will hand out essay topics one week before they are due.

LATE ESSAYS WILL BE MARKED DOWN ONE FULL GRADE.

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 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.

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located at the ground floor of the Financial Aid Office. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

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 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

<u>Week & Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<u>Week #1</u> August 20-24 INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONAL SOCIOLOGY RELATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORM	"Introduction," "Part 1," #2
<u>Week #2</u> August 27-31 RELATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORM	#3, #4, #5
<u>Week #3</u> September 3-7 RELATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL FORM BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATIONAL FORM No Class, Monday, September 3	#6, "Part II"
<u>Week #4</u> September 10-14 BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATIONAL FORM COORDINATION OF WORK	#8, #13, "Part III"
<u>Week #5</u> September 17-21 COORDINATION OF WORK Make Available Essay Assignment #1, Monday, September 17	#19, #20
<u>Week #6</u> September 24-28 AUTONOMY AND CONTROL Essay #1 Due, Monday, September 24	"Part IV," #22
<u>Week #7</u> October 1-5 AUTONOMY AND CONTROL	#23, #25, #26
<u>Week #8</u> October 8-12 AUTONOMY AND CONTROL ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE No Class, Friday, October 12	#27, "Part V"
<u>Week #9</u> October 15-19 ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE	#29, #30, #34
<u>Week #10</u> October 22-26 ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT Make Available Essay Assignment #2, Wednesday, October 24	"Part VI," #36, #41
<u>Week #11</u>	

October 29–November 2
DIVERSITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS "Part VII"
Essay #2 Due, Wednesday, October 31

Week #12
November 5–9
DIVERSITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS #43

Week #13
November 12–16
DIVERSITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS #44, #48
Term Paper Due

Week #14
November 19–23
DIVERSITY WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS
No Class Wednesday, November 21 or Friday, November 23

Week #15
November 26–30
ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING AND CHANGE "Part VIII," #50

Week #16
December 3–7
NEW TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES
"Part X," #58
Make Available Essay Assignment #3, Monday, December 3

Week #17
Critique #3 Due, Monday, December 10