

# Organizations in Society

## Sociology 3550

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Office Hours: By appointment only.

### Course Description

This course is about organizations. Society is made up of organizations. Most everything done in modern societies is done through organizations. Think about it a minute. What is not done through organizations? In this course, we take a hard, analytical look at organizations.

### Student Learning Objectives

- Identify and understand current theories of organizations.
- Understand physical structures and the role of technology in organizations.
- Understand power and control in organizations.
- Understand organizational cultures.
- Understand how ethnicity, sex, and social class affect organizations.

### Textbook

Scott, W. Richard. 2014. *Institutions and Organizations: Ideas, Interests, and Identities*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

Sociology Writing Group. 2013. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Worth Publishers. You can use an earlier edition.

### Book for the Book Review

Graeber, David. 2015. *The Utopia of Rules: On Technology, Stupidity, and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House.

### Course Requirements

You will be evaluated on a book review (25%), weekly reaction papers (40%), class discussion leadership (25%), attendance (5%), and participation (5%).

**Book Review:** After reading *The Utopia of Rules*, evaluate it in about four to six double spaced pages, covering the points made in chapter 6 of *The Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*. This book review is due on **Friday, June 12th**.

**Weekly Reaction Papers:** There will be a weekly (7) reaction paper due on Mondays. These reaction papers will be 40% of your grade. With the exception of the first one, a question(s) will be provided for each entry. These entries are an opportunity for you to explore the concepts and think about various issues discussed in class and in the

readings, developing your ability to analyze critically. Each entry should be 2-3 double-spaced pages. A reaction paper requires reflection and this takes time. Reaction papers that are submitted late will be deducted a minimum 10% penalty.

**Class Discussion Leadership:** Each student will lead a class discussion once during the semester. Discussion leading will usually occur on a Friday. Discussion leaders will prepare a series of questions on the week's readings for discussion. Class discussion leadership will be 20% of your grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance will count in the final grade. Attendance will be taken at each class period and participation will be noted. Up to 2 absences will not count against your grade. The absences are provided because I understand that real life occasionally collides with your school responsibilities and these absences give you the flexibility to responsibly manage conflicting circumstances that may arise during the course of the term without severe consequences for your point total. Additionally, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information for that night, not mine. Since my class notes are not detailed and prepared speeches, you will need to get the missed material from a classmate.

**Participation:** Participation is vital to a course of this nature, and is encouraged and expected. These issues are not cut-and-dry; they deserve discussion. The class will be quite dull if I have to lecture the entire time without comments, questions and observations from you. In order for you to participate intelligently, it is necessary for you to read the material before class.

### **Academic Integrity**

In addition to, but *not instead of*, assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources (including discussing assignments with other students). This is acceptable, but is not required. However, in all instances, you must do your own work and credit must be given where credit is due. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording, as your own. If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any assignment or exam you will receive a failing grade for the course and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Any student who does not understand how to avoid plagiarism must request assistance from the instructor.

### **Emergency Closure**

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request. Please refer to SSD's website for more

information: <http://weber.edu/ssd> (Links to an external site.) For more information about the SSD contact them at 801-626-6413, [ssd@weber.edu](mailto:ssd@weber.edu) or [departments.weber.edu/ssd](http://departments.weber.edu/ssd)

### Grading

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

95% = A	87% = B+	77% = C+	65% = D+	<60% = E
90% = A-	83% = B	73% = C	60% = D	
	80%= B-	70% = C-		

### Schedule

**Note:** This schedule represents the instructor's best guess about what we will be doing in this course. However, due to circumstances beyond our control the due dates of all readings and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in advance in class. Each student is responsible for keeping track of all changes.

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	Introduction to institutions and organizations	Chapters 1 & 2	
2	Three pillars of institutions	Chapter 3	Reaction Paper 1 due Monday
3	Logics, Agency, Carriers, & Levels	Chapter 4	Reaction Paper 2 due Monday
4	Institutional Construction	Chapter 5	Reaction Paper 3 due Monday
5	Institutionalization	Chapter 6	Reaction Paper 4 due Monday
6	Institutions and organizations	Chapter 7	Reaction Paper 5 due Monday
7	Institutions and organizational fields	Chapters 8 & 9	Reaction Paper 6 due Monday
			Reaction Paper 7 due Monday, 6/29/2015