COURSE DESCRIPTION:
SOCI 3304 - Social Organization
3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours
Prerequisite: SOCI 1101 or 2201.
This course is an introduction to large scale social organizations, with an emphasis on bureaucracy. It examines both the formal and informal aspects of bureaucracy, including topics ranging from power and authority, to centralization and decentralization, red tape, and professionalism.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
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E-MAIL: ltreiber@kennesaw.edu
OFFICE HOURS: 0930-1030 T/R AND BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
In this course we will focus on social science and sociological literatures that explain and define the important features of organizations in modern societies. Wide variety exists in organizational forms; these differ over time and across cultures. We will discuss how organizations and their members adapt to change—including changes in markets, populations, and the needs of members of the organization. Other main themes include theories of power and control and how these are framed in terms of race, social class, and gender intersections. We will also be concerned with ethics and organizational deviance. At the completion of the course, students should be able to use the theories and course concepts to summarize and critique key arguments and to apply these principles in an organizational case study paper, presentation, and exams.

At the end of the course students should be able to:
1. Describe the social and historical context for the emergence of organizations.
2. Explain the major theoretical models for organizational analysis in the contemporary social science literature.
3. Identify alternative ways of understanding organizations.
4. Evaluate the increasing scope and centrality of organizations in contemporary society.
5. Explore the implications of increasing organizational scope for social economic and political life.
6. Apply the theories and methods of organizational analysis as researchers, workers, and professionals.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Sociology of Organizations: Classic, Contemporary and Critical Readings
Michael J. Handel (Editor) 2002 Sage Publications
ISBN: 978-0761987666
Other readings will be distributed in class or available on D2L

ATTENDANCE:
Absences from class will only be excused for students who have documentation that severe illness, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present. Students are responsible for all readings and attendance at lectures and films. Attendance will be taken in every class.

EXAMS:
There will be three exams. The dates are noted in the syllabus. The instructor assumes that knowledge obtained in readings, lectures, and assignments is cumulative. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions.
Make-up exams are available only for students who have documentation that illness, incapacity, or official university business prevented them from being present at the regularly scheduled examination date. Make-up exams are administered during the final exam period.

The third and final exam will be administered according to the University final exam schedule, TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 1030-1230. The final exam date is non-negotiable, so please make arrangements to be there.

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<th>Evaluation</th>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td>2 written pages describing your organization</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:
Attendance will be taken every class. Every student is expected to participate in class. This means contributing to class discussions as well as active participation in class exercises, which will be held at announced and unannounced times throughout the course. Examples of in-class exercise include short writing assignments, small group discussions, and in-class projects. You cannot get credit for class participation unless you are in class and are contributing.

GRADES:
Grades will be based upon your percentage of the total number of points on exams, written work, and attendance. A= 90-100%; B= 89.99-80%; C= 79.99-70%; D= 69.99-60%; F= Below 60%.

ENROLLMENT STATUS:
Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Please refer to the official KSU policy for potential reimbursement if you withdraw from classes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs, Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. The full policy is published at the following link: (https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct)

DISABILITIES:
Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to notify the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Verification from KSU Student Disability Services is required. All discussions will remain confidential.
CONDUCT:
Several rules of classroom conduct should be followed.

- PLEASE DO NOT USE CELL PHONES OR LAPTOP COMPUTERS during class.
- Arrive on time and do not leave early.
- If an instructor (including me) or any of your peers says or does anything that you consider racial or sexual harassment, notify the instructor immediately. If this happens in class, you may write me an anonymous note or contact me in person.
- Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and or inappropriate behavior is a violation of the KSU student council regulations. I value and respect your contributions. Please do the same for others in the class.

COURSE OUTLINE:
I plan to follow the course outline listed below as closely as possible. If changes are necessary during the semester, I will announce them in advance. Please read the specified material in the text prior to the dates on which they will be discussed. I expect that you will come to class prepared to discuss assigned course material. You will be responsible for all assigned readings, whether they are explicitly covered in class or not. Please ask questions about any information presented in texts or lectures.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS
PLEASE READ THE SELECTIONS IN THE ORDER LISTED.

TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZATIONS
August 16-18

TOPIC 2: RATIONAL THEORIES OF ORGANIZATION
August 23-25

TOPIC 3: THE MCDONALDIZATION OF SOCIETY
August 30-September 1
George Ritzer, “The McDonaldization of Society “D2L (D2L)
Melissa L. Caldwell, “Domesticating the French Fry: McDonald’s and Consumerism in Moscow” (D2L)

TOPIC 4: VARIATIONS IN ORGANIZATIONS AND PROFESSIONS
September 6-8
Handel, "Organizations as Rational Systems II: Contingency Theory and the Discovery of Organizational Variation” pp. 39-44.

GUEST: Elena Gheorghiu: Professions and Professionals

TOPIC 5: ORGANIZATIONS AS HUMAN AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS
September 13-15
Bramel and Friend, “Hawthorne, the Myth of the Docile Worker, and Class Bias in Psychology” in Handel [8].

September 15—turn in a list of organizations that you are considering studying, with some indication of what kind of access you will have to a person in that organization. You should have AT LEAST TWO possibilities. I will return the list to you with suggestions on which organization seems most feasible.

EXAM 1 September 20

TOPIC 6: INSIDE ORGANIZATIONS AND POWER
September 22-September 27
Melville Dalton, “Conflicts between Staff and Line Managerial Officers” (1950) in Handel [13]
Michael Burawoy, “Manufacturing Consent” in Handel [15].
Michels, “Organizations and Oligarchy” in Handel [17]

TOPIC 8: ORGANIZATIONS AS OPEN SYSTEMS
September 29-October 4
Pfeffer and Salancik, “The External Control of Organizations” (1978) in Handel [18]

October 6: TBA

October 5 is the last day to withdraw from the course without penalty

TOPIC 9: THE EVOLUTION OF BIG BUSINESS
October 11-13
Critique: Bennett Harrison, “Lean and Mean” (1994) in Handel [26]

EXAM 2 October 18

TOPIC 10: ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE
October 20-25

October 27: TBA

TOPIC 11: GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS IN ORGANIZATIONS
November 1-3
Handel, "Organizations and Society," pp.371-380
Rosabeth Moss Kanter, “Numbers: Minorities and Majorities” (1977) in Handel [28]

November 3—Turn in at least two pages describing what the person you observed/interviewed told you about the organization, including how you are considering interpreting what you have learned about the organization.

TOPIC 12: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVIANCE
November 8-10
Charles Perrow, “Normal Accidents: Living with High Risk Technology”

TOPIC 13: ALTERNATIVES
November 15-
Handel, "Democratic Alternatives to Capitalist Bureaucracy" pp. 457-460
(1979) in Handel [34]

November 15 Class presentations
November 17 Class presentations
(No class November 22 or 24)
November 29 TERM PAPER DUE Class presentations
December 1 Class presentations

FINAL December 8, 2015 from 1030-1230

PRESENTATION
Presentations provide you with the opportunity to talk about your case study before a supportive audience and to receive feedback on your work. Presentations will be given in class. Each student will have 5-7 minutes. We will reserve presentation time for the last few days of the course. You are responsible for attending other students’ presentations.

TERM PAPER: Case Study of an Organization
Choose an organization in the area or one that you know from your hometown. Visit the organization, interview the owner/founder, and observe the organization in action. Construct a LIFE-CYCLE story around three main themes: 1) the process by which the organization was founded; 2) the growth and transformation (if any, of the organization; and 3) survival prospects and likelihood of deterioration. Basic requirements of the paper: 8 double spaced typed pages, 10-12 point font, Times New Roman. USE COURSE CONCEPTS to explain the life-cycle of your organization. Use American Sociological Association (ASA) style to cite references.
Throughout the semester we will meet in small teams or groups that will cooperate throughout the semester on in class exercises and the term project. Meeting in teams and discussing your projects in groups will help give you ideas about your own paper and will give you an opportunity to contribute to your classmates’ projects.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE TERM PROJECT

September 15—turn in a list of organizations that you are considering studying, with some indication of what kind of access you will have to a person in that organization. You should have AT LEAST TWO possibilities. I will return the list to you with suggestions on which organization seems most feasible.

October 13—Be prepared to discuss the organizations you have chosen to study.
November 3—Turn in at least two pages describing what the person you observed/interviewed told you about the organization, including how you are considering interpreting what you have learned about the organization. Submit in D2L.

November 10—Be prepared to compare and contrast your organizational findings with others and to exchange ideas about writing up your results.

Anytime during the semester before November 10—turn in if you wish, an outline of your proposed paper, showing which course concepts, organizational theories, or other factors you identify as key to understanding the organization. I will give you feedback on this outline, but only if I receive it before November 10

November 29—FINAL PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS AND D2L. Your paper is due in class on the date assigned. Please turn in a hard copy and turn it in on D2L’s dropbox. Do not by email unless specifically cleared with me.
5 POINTS will be DEDUCTED for every day the paper is late including weekends. PLEASE do not reach a point where your paper will be worth 0 points. Please plan to turn it in when it is due.