

SOCIOLOGY 3304: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY/SPRING 2015/SECTION 01
TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM/SOCIAL SCIENCES BLDG #2021

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OFFICE HOURS: TR 12:30-1:30 PM, 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment

SYLLABUS

Organizations play a leading role in our modern world. Their presence affects virtually every sector of contemporary social life. This course is about organizations – what they are and what they do, how they have changed, and how sociologists have thought about them and studied them.

Organizations are perhaps the dominant characteristic of modern societies. Organizations were present in older civilizations, but only on modern industrialized societies do we find large numbers of organizations performing virtually every task a society needs in order to function. The course does not survey all types of organizations – the focus is on business corporations, and to a lesser extent government organizations, because they are the dominant, most important organizations that shape our society.

We will study the major theoretical schools used by sociologists for the study of organizations – rational systems, natural systems, and open systems. We will examine technology, labor, power and control, transaction costs, networks and populations of organizations, as well as formal and informal structures. And we will seek to understand the rise, transformation, strategies and performance of corporations.

You will select a Fortune 500 company to research and apply the sociological theories to its operations and development.

REQUIRED TEXT

Organizations and Organizing (Scott & Davis) 2007

SCHEDULE

	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
WEEK 1		JANUARY 8 Introduction & Chapter 1
WEEK 2	JANUARY 13 Chapter 1 - Organizations & Organizing	JANUARY 15 Chapter 1 - Organizations & Organizing
WEEK 3	JANUARY 20 Chapter 2 - Rational System Theories RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE	JANUARY 22 Chapter 2 - Rational System Theories
WEEK 4	JANUARY 27 Chapter 3 - Natural System Theories	JANUARY 29 Chapter 3 - Natural System Theories
WEEK 5	FEBRUARY 3 Chapter 4 - Open System Theories	FEBRUARY 5 Chapter 4 - Open System Theories
WEEK 6	FEBRUARY 10 <i>Film -- Enron: The Smartest Guys In the Room</i> ESSAY EXAM ONE DUE	FEBRUARY 12 <i>Film -- Enron: The Smartest Guys In the Room</i> Chapter 5 - Combining & Expanding
WEEK 7	FEBRUARY 17 Chapters 5 & 6 - Technology & Structure	FEBRUARY 19 Chapter 6 - Technology & Structure
WEEK 8	FEBRUARY 24 <i>Film -- Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price</i> CORPORATE CASE STUDY PART 1 DUE	FEBRUARY 26 <i>Film -- Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price (followed by discussion)</i> Chapter 7 - Labor & Structure
WEEK 9	MARCH 3 Chapter 8 - Goals, Power & Control	MARCH 5 Chapter 8 - Goals, Power & Control

WEEK 10	MARCH 10 Chapter 9 - The Dyadic Environment of the Organization	MARCH 12 Chapter 9 - The Dyadic Environment of the Organization
WEEK 11	MARCH 17 Chapter 10 - Organization of the Environment	MARCH 19 Chapter 10 - Organization of the Environment
WEEK 12	MARCH 24 <i>Film: Inside Job</i>	MARCH 26 <i>Film: Inside Job</i> <i>(followed by discussion)</i>
WEEK 13	MARCH 31 Chapter 11 -- Networks	APRIL 2 Chapter 12 - Strategy CORPORATE CASE STUDY PART 2 DUE
WEEK 14	APRIL 7 <i>SPRING BREAK</i>	APRIL 9 <i>SPRING BREAK</i>
WEEK 15	APRIL 14 Social Movement Organizations	APRIL 16 Social Movement Organizations ESSAY EXAM TWO DUE
WEEK 16	APRIL 21 Social Movement Organizations	APRIL 23 Social Movement Organizations
WEEK 17	APRIL 28 Social Movement Organizations CORPORATE CASE STUDY FINAL PAPER DUE	APRIL 30 FINAL EXAM 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

EVALUATION

Your grade will be based on:

TAKE-HOME ESSAY EXAMS

You will write two sets of take-home essays, each worth 100 points. Your essays will be submitted in class as well as uploaded to the Dropbox in D2L. You will receive the questions in advance along with specific instructions.

IN-CLASS ESSAY FINAL EXAM

You will write your essays (worth 50 points) on social movement organizations in a blue book.

CORPORATE CASE STUDY PAPER

You will research and write a corporate case study paper, based on articles in the popular and business press, and academic articles if available. You must gain approval for your topic, and then follow the guidelines for locating sources and applying the theories from the class. The paper will be worth 150 points in all, broken into three installments.

These exams will be graded on a standard point system:

90+ = A, 80+ = B, 70+ = C, 60+ = D, and 59 and below = F.

CLASS TOTAL: 400 points

CORPORATE CASE STUDY ASSIGNMENT

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CORPORATE CASE STUDY PAPER

You will select a Fortune 500 company to research and apply the sociological theories to its operations and development. You will research and write a corporate case study paper, based on articles in the popular and business press, and academic articles if available. You must gain approval for your topic, and then follow the guidelines for locating sources and applying the theories from the class. The paper will be worth 150 points in all, broken into installments.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL - DUE TUESDAY JANUARY 20

Your proposal is simply a corporation to study. This should be based on article searches (using the "How to Conduct a Library Search" handout on D2L).

Here are some criteria for selecting a corporation:

- 1) You need at least 10 articles about the corporation. These articles should include more than whether the stock price was up or down. You need information about the corporation's structure, products, managers, workers, etc. Therefore it needs to be a big, well-known company, not a local small business. Use the Fortune 500 list for ideas if you can't think of any companies.
- 2) It should be a publicly traded company, not privately held. This will make it possible to look at Annual Reports (which should be available on the company's website) as an excellent source of information. The latest Annual Report will count as one of your articles.

PART ONE - DUE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 (50 points)

This first paper should include at least five articles. Your paper of approximately 3-5 pages should A) summarize the articles and then B) analyze the corporation using the theories we have discussed in class.

The articles you use will mainly be newspaper and magazine articles, from 2000 or more recently, from sources such as *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, and *The Economist*. You can use academic journal articles as well if you find any with information on your chosen corporation, but it is not required.

You should include a References section with the articles cited in APA style (see the handout on D2L for guidance).

PART TWO - DUE THURSDAY APRIL 2 (50 points)

The second paper repeats the same format using at least five more articles, analyzing them using different theories from those used in the first paper.

FINAL PAPER - DUE TUESDAY APRIL 28 (50 points)

The final paper adds an overall analysis and summary, with an introduction to the entire paper. You can add articles if you have found new ones that are high-quality.

Here you should expand upon and elaborate on your theoretical analysis of the corporation, incorporating my feedback from the first and second papers and including all the best and most important theories you've learned in the class.

You will need a complete References section in APA style.

At this point we will have covered all the theories, and so you can analyze all of your data from all 15 articles using all the theories. This is what you should add in your overall analysis.

The final paper should be at least 15 pages long.

POLICIES

1) ATTENDANCE

If you ever have to miss class, make sure to get the notes for the lecture you missed from a fellow student. If you have a university-sanctioned reason to miss an exam, such as an athletic event, you must notify me in advance in order to make-up the exam, preferably prior to the regularly scheduled time. **If you are sick, you must let me know the day of the exam, assignment, or exercise in order to qualify for making up the work.**

2) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

There is no use of cell phones for texting while in class. Phones should be turned off. You must discuss with me any reason you need to keep your phone on vibrate to receive a call, otherwise it will be considered a violation. Laptops may be used ONLY for note-taking. This will be monitored.

3) INTEGRITY

It is your responsibility to maintain academic integrity as specified in the KSU Student Code of Conduct. Do not cheat or plagiarize, and do not aid and abet others in cheating or plagiarizing. My policy for a first offense is that if you are caught cheating or helping a fellow student cheat your grade for that assignment may be a ZERO. Any subsequent infractions may result in your expulsion from the course with an F, and a referral to the University Administration for further sanctions.

4) ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Disabled Student Support Services in the Student Development Center: 770-423-6443, or e-mail Nastassia Sanabria at nsanabria@kennesaw.edu. The office is located in the Student Center, Building 5, Room 267. I will work with the student and the Center to make a reasonable accommodation for testing once verification has been provided to me by the office.

5) ADVISING

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to offer academic advising to students in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC is located in Willingham Hall, Room 223. Their hours are Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointment by using the website, or by calling the Center during office hours at [770-794-7728](tel:770-794-7728). For more information, visit the UAC website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php>."