

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology Fall, 2008  
SOC 2390 A01 SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, 3 Credit Hours  
Slot 10 1:00-2:15 137 Isbister  
Instructor: K.W. TAYLOR

Office: University College Room 369  
Office hours: By Appointment

Phone 474-8877  
Email: Use WebCT

Required Textbooks:

Allahar and Cote, *Richer and Poorer*, 1998, Lorimer  
Perrow, *Complex Organizations*, 1984, McGraw-Hill  
Wright, *A Short History of Progress*, 2004, Anansi

This document along with course policies and details on grade calculations and assignments can be found on the course website. Go to the UM webpage > JUMP > Courses > Social Organization. If you have no ID Click on Claim your ID.

**COURSE GOALS**

The goals of this course are to provide students with an examination of organization as an influence and resource in their lives and an introductory level examination of the theory and practice of organization and reorganization: origin, modification and termination of organization. Social organization is regarded as the major source of social ills (like tainted blood, mining fatalities, child poverty) and benefits (like the anti-personnel mines treaty, an anti-apartheid regime in South Africa, human rights legislation) . At the same time, organization and reorganization are seen as the major corrective for social ills and the enhancement of social benefits. Instruction will focus on asking questions, problem solving, research and communication skills for the above topics.

**Evaluation**

Course Work	Value	Dates
Tests	40%	Oct 18, Dec 4
Assignment A	20%	Nov 1
Assignment B	20%	Dec 4
Classroom Participation	15%	Every class meeting
Attendance	5%	Every class meeting

Assignment A: Select one of

- Organizational history of an individual
- Development of an organization/institution over the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (Group)

Assignment B Select one of

- Term Paper (Individual)
- Organizational Audit (Individual)
- Commodity Assignment (Group)
- Start an organization (Individual)
- Tracking assignment (Empire, Nation, Institution/Industry, Organization) (Group)

Note: Topics selected for assignments must be independent of each other and independent of exam question topics.

**PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to read assigned materials prior to class, raise questions, answer questions, and contribute to class discussions and problem solving. Students may participate by writing in the course website.

**ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend and record their attendance at all class meetings unless they can document reasons for non-attendance such as sickness or family crises. Students missing more than 25% of class meetings without documented reasons may face debarment from the course.

### Topic and Readings Calendar

Week	Topic	SHP	CO	RP	Other
<b>September</b>					
1	What's to explain in social organization?				
8	What does SO depend on?	1	1	---	
15	What are costs/benefits of SO?	2	192-208	---	Markets + <sup>1</sup>
22	What SO subunits are encouraged/discouraged?	---	---	5	Coops + <sup>2</sup>
29	What are the theories of SO?	---	3, 5	---	Conflict +
<b>October</b>					
6	What are the theories of SO?	3	---	2	
13	What are the theories of SO?	---	6, 8	---	
20	What is the origin of SO?	1	---	1	
27	What is the origin of SO?	---	2	4	
<b>November</b>					
3	Why and how does SO change	4	---	3	
10	Why and how does SO change	---	4	---	
17	What is the present state of SO	---	---	6	
24	What is the present state of SO	---	---	---	Languages + <sup>3</sup>
<b>December</b>					
3	What is the prognosis for SO?	5	---	---	

<sup>1</sup> Markets (black and white) and subsidies, states, empires

<sup>2</sup> Cooperatives, non-profits, charities, unions, religious organizations

<sup>3</sup> Cultures, peoples

Reading assignments on topics not covered in the textbooks will be announced from time to time. Material for these assignments will be placed on library reserve or put on the course web page.

#### *Student Responsibility and Academic Integrity*

If a test is missed for a legitimate medical reason the student must get in touch with the professor, present their medical certificate, and arrange for a make-up test. Under normal circumstances, the student is required to inform the professor of their request for a make-up test within one week of the original test date. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for that test.

Cheating is a serious offense with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on academic ethics, i.e., cheating (see the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar).

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students

should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

Last day for Voluntary Withdrawal from course: November 12

The following numerical scores are used for averaging letter grades: A+=87, A=82, B+=77, B=72, C+=67, C=62, D=55. Grades are averaged upward if the score is less than .5 away from the next category. For example, a score of 79.50 would be graded as B+; a score of 79.51 would be graded as A+