

SOCY 261A, Social Organization

3 credits, 3hours lecture

This course is a theoretical (classical as well as contemporary) study of social organization. Primary emphasis is on the emergence of social organization, its sources of stability, conflict and change.

Prerequisites and/or co-requisites: Socy 100 or Socy 102.

Instructor

Mark Stobbe

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Office Hours

Monday 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Tuesday 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Wednesday 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Hours of Instruction

Tuesday 3:30 pm to 4:50 pm

Thursday 3:30 pm to 4:50 pm

Required Resources

Governance: A Very Short Introduction, Mark Bevir

Organizations: A Very Short Introduction, Mary Jo Hatch

There will also be articles assigned as reading during the term. Links to these articles will be provided.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of organizations in society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different modes of governance appropriate for private, public and community-based organizations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes good governance and decision making in organizations and what some common organizational pathologies are.

Evaluation

First Midterm Exam 20%

Second Midterm Exam 20%

Essay 20%

Final Exam 40%

Total 100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Grading System

| Descriptor | Alpha Grade | 4.0 Scale | Percent | Rubric for Letter Grades |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Excellent | A+ | 4.0 | > 92.9 | Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format. |
| | A | 4.0 | 85 – 92.9 | |
| | A- | 3.7 | 80 – 84.9 | |
| Good | B+ | 3.3 | 77 – 79.9 | Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format. |
| | B | 3.0 | 74 – 76.9 | |
| | B- | 2.7 | 70 – 73.9 | |
| Satisfactory | C+ | 2.3 | 67 – 69.9 | Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting. |
| | C | 2.0 | 64 – 66.9 | |
| | C- | 1.7 | 60 – 63.9 | |
| Poor | D+ | 1.3 | 55 – 59.9 | Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format. |
| Minimum Pass | D | 1.0 | 50 – 54.9 | |
| Failure | F | 0.0 | < 50 | Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete. |

Proposed Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

September 6

What is an organization and why do organizations exist?

Reading: *Organizations*, Chapter 1

September 11 and 13

What does it mean to be an organization?

Reading: *Organizations*, Chapter 3

September 18 and 20

Accountability and control- who do organizations serve?

Reading: *Organizations*, Chapter 4; *Governance*, Chapter 1 and 2

September 25 and 28

Private, Public and Community Based Organizations

Reading: *Governance*, Chapters 3 and 4

October 2

A question of scale: Organizations of organizations

Reading: *Governance*, Chapter 5

October 4 – Midterm Exam

October 9 and 11

Forming Organizations

Reading: *Organizations*, Chapters 2 and 5

October 16 and 18
Influencing Organizations

October 23 and 25
Forms of Accountability
Reading: *Governance*, Chapter 6

October 30 and November 1
Impact of size and secrecy on groups
Reading: Simmel, "The Number of Members as Determining the Sociological Form of the Group" and "The Sociology of Secrecy and of Secret Societies."

November 6 – Midterm Exam

November 13 and November 15
Strengths and weaknesses of bureaucracies
Reading: Gould, "The Benefits of Bureaucracy".

November 20 and November 22
Human Cognition and Group Dynamics
Reading: Kahneman, "MAPS OF BOUNDED RATIONALITY: A PERSPECTIVE ON INTUITIVE JUDGMENT AND CHOICE"; Janis, "Groupthink"; and Lovello and Kahneman, "Delusions of Success."

ESSAY DUE November 20

November 27 and November 29
Muddling Through
Reading: Lindblom, "The Science of "Muddling Through".

December 4 and December 6
Review: *Organizations in Live*.
Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Laboratory Safety

In the science laboratories, safety is important.

Students must complete the *WHMIS for Students* online training course on Moodle before entering the science laboratories.

Students must comply with the mandatory laboratory safety rules for this course as provided in the laboratory manual. Failure to do so will result in progressive discipline such as a verbal warning, refused entry into the laboratory, or suspension from the College.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

The Student Academic Support Services (SASS) department: Accessibility Services, Skill Centre and Wellness Services, work together to support student success at Keyano College.

Accessibility Services (CC167) supports student success through group and individualized instruction of learning, study and test taking strategies, and adaptive technologies. Students with documented disabilities, or who suspect a disability, can meet with the Learning Strategists to discuss accommodation of the learning barriers that they may be experiencing. Students who have accessed accommodations in the past are encouraged to visit our office at their earliest opportunity to discuss the availability of accommodations in their current courses. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934

Skill Centre (CC119) provides a learning space where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff. Students visiting the centre have access to one-to-one or group tutoring, facilitated study groups, and assistance in academic writing. The Skill Centre's Peer Tutor program provides paid employment opportunities for students who have demonstrated academic success and want to share what they have learned. Tutoring is available free to any students registered at Keyano College on a drop in basis, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Additional evening hours are subject to tutor availability and are posted in the Skill Centre.

Wellness Services (CC260) offers a caring, inclusive, and respectful environment where students can access free group and individual support to meet academic and life challenges. Mental Health Coordinators offer a safe and confidential environment to seek help with personal concerns. The Mindfulness Room in CC260 is available as a quiet space for students to relax during regular office hours. Wellness Service welcomes students to participate in any of the group sessions offered throughout the academic year addressing such topics as Mindfulness and Text Anxiety. Individual appointments can be made by calling 780-791-8934.

Please watch your Keyano email for workshop announcements from our Student Academic Support Services team.