

## **SYLLABUS: Sociology of Organizations**

Description: Description: This course provides a sociological perspective on groups and organizations. We are born into a group known as our "family," and live our lives in organizations and institutions that we take for granted. These organizations shape us in ways we do not always examine through our social interactions, their structures and functions. This course will give you a perspective on how people operate in groups and organizations with an emphasis on the world of employment and work.

**Required Texts:** The following texts can be purchased at the university bookstore, local book stores or on-line:

1. Albert Mills, Helms Mills, Forshaw, Bratton, Organizational Behavior in a Global Context, Broadview Press, 2007..
2. Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed, Henry Holt, 2001.
3. Calvin Morrill, The Executive Way, University of Chicago Press, 1996.

**Recommended Text:** Geert Hofstede, Cultures and Organizations, McGraw Hill, 1997.

Requirements: Successful completion of the following assignments: essay midterm exam on the readings (30 points); oral presentations of 3 readings (5 points each, 15 points total); individual project on an organization with oral presentation (turn in summary of presentation/organization diary for 25 points); take-home final essay exam (30 points).

Total equals 100 points.

### **Course Outline**

January 8: Introduction to the Sociology of Groups and Organizations. Different approaches to and discussion of doing an organizational diary. Lecture.

Required Reading (henceforth RR): Mills, Chapter 1.

Jan. 10: Considering social contexts and organizations. Lecture.  
RR: Mills, Chapter 2.

Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Holiday No Class.

Jan 17-24.: Case studies: working the service sector in restaurants, nursing homes, Walmart. Video.  
RR and presentations from Ehrenreich (5 points for each presentation).

Jan 29-31: Individuals/social psychology in organizations.  
RR and presentations from Mills, Part II

February 5: Groups in organizations. RR: Mills, Chapter 9.  
An organizational game to play.

Feb. 7-12: Kinds of diversities. RR: Mills, Chaps. 10-11.

Feb. 14: Communication with diversity. Video. RR: Mill, Chap. 12.  
(Take-home midterm exam questions handed out.)

Feb. 19: Culture in organizations/societies. RR: Mills, Chap. 14.

Feb. 21: Presentation of Hofstede's study.  
Recommended: Geert Hofstede, Cultures and Organizations.

Feb 26: MIDTERM ESSAY EXAM DUE

Feb. 28: Power in organizations, RR: Mills, Chap. 13.

March 5-7: Mapping organizational structures. RR: Mills, Chap. 15.  
Mapping your organization exercise.

March 12: Leadership. RR: Mills, Chap. 16.

March 14-April 2: How structure affects conflict. RR: Morrill.

March 19-25: Spring Break

April 4-9: Globalization effects. RR: Mills, Chap. 17.

April 11-18: Class Presentations

April 18: Presentation papers due

April 23: Take Home FINAL EXAM DUE