

## COURSE SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY 477.01  
COMPLEX ORGANIZATIONS  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
SPRING, 2008  
TDC/WYNNE UNIT  
8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Monday

PROFESSOR: Walter H. Bennett  
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OFFICE HOURS: To be announced at the first meeting

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### I. ***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course examines the structure and functioning of large-scale organizations and bureaucratic social systems in various institutional settings (e.g., business or industry, health, education, religions, military, prison and political). Special attention is given to the nature and types of organizations, the idea of organizational effectiveness, and the personal and social consequences of organizational involvement. Prerequisite: SOC131

### II. ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

Course objectives or learning goals include:

1. To recognize that organizations are a dominant component of contemporary human society.
2. To understand that all organizations have characteristics that distinguish them as a special type or form of social phenomenon.
3. To develop an understanding of a conceptual framework for the study of organizational structure and organizational processes.
4. To develop an understanding of the relationship between organizational environment and organizational effectiveness.
5. To provide a critical introduction for an informed study of classical issues and perspectives in the study of organizations.

### III. ***REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)***

Organizations: Structures, Processes and Outcomes, Richard Hall

Critical Studies in Organization and Bureaucracy, Frank Fischer and Carmen Siranni, Editors

### IV. ***SEMESTER COURSE GRADE***

The semester grade will be based upon two exams, as formally scheduled in the this syllabus, and weekly exercises or activities. The mid-term exam and weekly class activities will contribute fifty (50%) percent toward the semester grade and the comprehensive final exam will contribute the remaining fifty (50%) percent of the semester grade.

The exams will be essay in format and additional information regarding weekly work will be provided at the first class meeting.

Students will be graded on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = below a 60 average

### V. ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

#### 1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leaves early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. A student is not only expected to show appropriate cause for both absences and tardiness, but he/she is also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work, whether assigned or not.

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### 2. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

### 3. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. ***This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.***

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### 4. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf)

### 5. VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to classes must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### 6. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

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- a. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect.
- b. Students are not allowed to use cell phones, I-Pods, MP3, etc., they should be stowed and **turned off** during class.
- c. Computers may be used to take notes ONLY.

### 7. INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

### 8. REQUIRE SUPPLIES

Not applicable.

## VI. ***COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS/TIME SCHEDULE***

DATES (2008)	TOPICS	REFERENCES
Jan. 28, Feb. 4	<b>Conceptual Clarification and The Nature Of Organization</b> - The Outcomes of Organizations - On the Nature and Types of Organizations	Hall, pp. 1-44
Feb. 11,18	<b>Organizational Structures</b> - Organizational Structure: Forms and Outcomes - Organizational Structure: Explorations	Hall, pp. 45-108
Feb. 25, Mar. 3	<b>Classical Problems and Perspectives</b>	Fischer/Sirianni, pp. 1-82
Mar. 17	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
Mar. 24, 31	<b>Organizational Processes</b> - Power and Power Outcomes - Leadership - Decision Making - Communications - Change	Hall, pp. 109-203
April 7, 14	<b>Forms of Control and Divisions of Labor</b>	Fischer/Sirianni, pp 83-257
April 21, 28 May 5	<b>Organizational Environments</b> - Organizational Environments and Inter-organizational Relationships - Structures, Power and Practices  <b>Organizational Alternatives and Social Change</b>	Hall, pp. 204-248  Fischer/Sirianni, pp. 259-442 Fischer/Sirianni, pp. 443-643
May 12	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	