Course Information

This course covers classical works in organization theory and surveys the main paradigms that are now active in the field. In addition, we read works from business historians, economists, comparativists, and critical theorists that have shaped sociological thinking about organizations. As the field is broad and deep in many spots, for each week I include a list of recommended further readings.

Requirements

Students should complete the required readings before each meeting. Please bring to each class meeting a copy of your reading notes for the week. These should outline the main arguments found in the readings and cover questions you have and connections you see between things we cover in the course. A final paper of approximately 15 pages will be due at the end of the semester. That paper will be based largely on course readings, and may take the form of a research proposal.

The final grade will depend on (1) class participation and discussion initiation, (2) weekly abstracts of the readings, and (3) a term paper.

Readings

Many of the readings are available online. See the course website. These are marked below (Website). Most of the remaining readings are available for you to photocopy in the library on the first floor of William James Hall. These are marked (WJH Library). In addition, I recommend you buy copies of the four books listed below. I have not ordered these through the bookstore because you can do better getting a mix of new and used copies through Amazon or another online bookseller. The books are:


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1. Week of September 20

THE DIVISION OF LABOR AND RATIONALIZATION


Further Reading:


2. **Week of September 27**

**THE DIVISION OF LABOR AND CONTROL**


**Further Reading:**


3. **Week of October 4**

**THE MODERN CORPORATION AND RATIONALIZATION**


**Further Reading:**


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October 11: Columbus Day holiday observed

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4. **Week of October 18**

*THE MODERN CORPORATION AND POWER*


Further Reading:


5. Week of October 25

THE CARNEGIE SCHOOL: ORGANIZATION AS NATURAL SYSTEM


Further Reading:


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6. Week of November 1

**HUMAN RELATIONS AND THEORY Z: NATURAL SYSTEM REDUX**


**Further Reading:**


7. Week of November 8

**NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE CORPORATION**


**Further Reading:**


8. Week of November 15

CONTINGENCY THEORY AND RESOURCE DEPENDENCE:


Further Reading:


9. Week of November 22

**POPULATION ECOLOGY**


Further Reading:


10. Week of November 29

**THE INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOL**


**Further Reading:**


11. Week of December 6

ORGANIZATIONS AND LABOR MARKETS


Further Reading:


Further Reading:


13. Week of December 20

**NETWORKS**


**Further Reading:**


