

SOC 321 – Sociology of Organizations

Fall, 2011 T-F 2:10 – 3:25, Thomas Hunter 518	Professor Howard Lune 1601 HW Office Hours: T. 4:00 – 5:00; F. 4:00-5:00, and by appointment e: hlune@hunter.cuny.edu ph: 772-5641
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Course Description

The sociology of organizations is a reflection of all of sociology, from a particular perspective. Since most of our lives are spent in and around organized settings, the study of organizations is the study of the infrastructure of our world.

In this class, we will explore how organizations work and why, what we do with them, and what they do with us. We will discuss theoretical work and contemporary research.

Books

Michael Handel 2003. *The Sociology of Organizations: Classic, Contemporary and Critical Readings*. Sage Publications.

Lune, Howard 2010. *Understanding Organizations*. Polity Press.

Additional readings distributed via Blackboard as needed

Grades and Evaluation

- Attendance is mandatory; multiple absences will affect your grade. You cannot pass the course with more than 5 absences unless you make arrangements for an incomplete. Read that again; make sure you have that in mind.
- Weekly assignments, some of which will be graded in detail, and most of which are simply required for discussion. See below.
- A paper.
- Two exams.
- Participation. This class will rely on class discussions of the key issues. There are no rules for participation, except that everyone must contribute actively. There is also such a thing as “dis-participation,” such as answering your phone during class or arriving late and leaving early. Dis-participation lowers your grade.

Most homeworks have two parts to them, a short on-line quiz and a couple of discussion questions.

The on-line part, when it works, expires one hour before the class in which it is due. No late homeworks are accepted. If BB is down for extended periods when an assignment is due, I will usually just cancel the assignment. But it's your responsibility not to get caught at the last minute waiting for the system to be restored on a Friday morning when it's been available until then.

The discussion questions are longer and more interesting. They will be used as the basis for class discussions and exam review. Bring a copy of your answers to class.

Grading: the on-line quiz part is automatically graded and worth a few points each. The discussions are graded on a three point scale: done = 2 pts; half-done = 1 pt; not done = 0.

All of the points by the end of the semester will count for 30% of your grade.
The midterm and final together will count for 50%.
Exam questions will greatly resemble the discussion questions.

The paper will be worth 10%, and class participation will account for the remaining 10%.