SOCIology 224B January, 2009

SOCIOLOGY OF WORK

The study of the role of industrialization, capitalism, and bureaucracy in the organization of work including such topics as comparative and historical differences in work, post-industrialism, types of work organizations, and human relations.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Manley

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Time: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:50 P1013

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:15-2:15 DAWB 5-126

Tuesday 6:00-6:45 DAWB 5-126 extension 4276

Textbook: There is no textbook. There is no course package of readings. All readings are pdf files available through trellis and webct for this course. Students are expected to download all of the readings at the start of the course. If webct is not available at any point, students are expected to get the readings online from the library. Any failure of Laurier’s online resources does not provide a basis for a deferral or an extension.

COURSE EVALUATION

Midterm Test #1 20%
Midterm Test #2 20%
Presentation 10%
Term Paper 30%
Final Examination 20%

Midterm test #1 is on Thursday, February 5 and covers the first four parts (1-4) of the course outline. Midterm test #2 is on Thursday, March 12 and covers the middle four parts (5-8) of the course outline. Each test is 80 minutes long and is held in class time. The final examination will be scheduled during the examination period (April 8-28) and will cover the last four parts (9-12) of the course outline. It is 1½ hours long. For each test/exam you will answer 3 questions out of 5. The questions require essay answers emphasizing the importance of theoretical issues. You are required to make specific references to the theories and theorists covered in the readings and the lectures. A deferred midterm will be provided for a legitimate reason: a medical reason or a death in the family.

Grades for each course requirement will be reported on webct for this course at the end of the term.

Students are required to make a presentation to the class. The presentations will be scheduled in class. The presentations are discussed below. Students are required to submit a term paper. The term paper is discussed below. Students are expected to attend lectures, but attendance is not kept and there are no penalties for not attending. Students will have access to webct for this course, but this will only have: the course outline; the pdf readings; and, at the end of the course, the grades for each course requirement.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the course is to teach you to think sociologically about work. The course is based on pdf files of articles from academic journals so that you experience the production of the sociology of work from an academic point of view. We recommend an approach to the study of work that relates sociology to economics as an economic sociology. More particularly, to focus on how theories in sociology and economics can be used together. Finally, to show how sociology can provide valuable insights into work and how the study of work can provide an interesting vehicle for learning about sociology. We shall focus on central issues in the sociology of work: markets, bureaucracy, technology, human relations, professions, institutions, organizations, and morality.

NOTICES

1. **Student Awareness of the Accessible Learning Centre:**

   Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier’s Accessible Learning Centre for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus. Guidelines regarding the consideration of such students can be obtained by contacting the Accessible Learning Centre, ext. 3086:  www.mylaurier.ca/accessible.htm

2. **For Evening Classes:**

   “After class call 886-FOOT for a walk or drive home - No Walk is Too Short or Too Long!!”

3. **Academic and Research Misconduct:**

   Academic misconduct is an act by a student, or by students working on a team project, which may result in a false evaluation of the student(s), or which represents a deliberate attempt to unfairly gain an academic advantage. Academic misconduct includes: please refer to web site: www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=158&p=8383&pv=1

   Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.

4. **Examination Deferrals:**

   The academic date section of the 2008/2009 calendar: www.wlu.ca/calendars/section.php?cal=1&s=268&sp=800&ss=1142&y=33#Deferred_Examination_Policy clearly states the examination date period for each semester. Students must note that they are required to reserve this time in their personal calendars for the examinations. Students who are considering registering to write MCAT, LSAT or GMAT or a similar examination, should select a time for those examinations that occurs outside the University examination period.

   For additional information that describes the special circumstances for examination deferment, consult web site of the 2008/2009 University on-line calendar: www.wlu.ca/calendars/section.php?cal=1&s=268&sp=800&ss=1142&y=33#Special_Examinations

The World Wide Web version is the up-to-date, official Academic Calendar:  www.wlu.ca
COURSE OUTLINE

1. Markets

2. Bureaucracy and Rationality

3. Taylorism and Fordism

4. Human Relations and Emotions

5. Technology and Knowledge

6. Professions
7. Institutions and Networks


8. Ecology


9. Agency


10. Organizational Failures


11. Toxic Corporations


12. Corporate Morality

PRESENTATION

Select an article from a major sociology journal. You may use an article from a non-sociology journal only with my permission. The article must be available as a pdf file using trellis. The article must deal with the sociology of work. The article must deal with one of parts 1-5 of the course. The article must make an original contribution to sociological theory and must not be a review and must not be overly focused on research. The article must not report quantitative research. You will make a ten minute presentation to the class based on the article. You are expected to summarize the theory in the article, criticize the theory in the article, and suggest how the theory in the article can be improved. Your presentation must focus on theoretical issues. Do not provide a review of research findings.

You may use two pages of notes when you make your presentation. Your presentation will consist of you talking to the class. There will be no overheads, no powerpoint presentations, nothing computerized, nothing on the blackboard, and no handouts. You will develop a discussion of your analysis after its formal presentation by inviting questions from the class and by asking questions to which the class can respond.

A schedule for the presentations will be circulated in class and you will sign up for a specific date. A deferred presentation will be scheduled for a legitimate reason: a medical reason or a death in the family. Please email me promptly if you wish to reschedule your presentation. If you have not made your presentation by the time of the last class on April 2, you must do it then. The presentation is worth 10% of the final grade for this course.
TERM PAPER

Select an article from a major sociology journal. You may use an article from a non-sociology journal only with my permission. The article must be available as a pdf file using trellis. The article must deal with the sociology of work. The article must deal with one of parts 6-12. It must be different from the one used for your presentation. The article must make an original contribution to sociological theory and must not be a review.

You are expected to summarize the theory in the article, criticize the theory in the article, and suggest how the theory in the article can be improved. You must provide two additional references that deal with the critique and the improvement. These articles must also be available as pdf files using trellis.

An article used as a reference for the term paper must not be an article that is used or referred to extensively in this course. Each article must refer to the sociology or work. Each article must not be overly focused on the reporting of research. Each article must not report or use quantitative research methods. All aspects of the term paper must deal with the sociology of work: the theory, the critique of the theory, and the theoretical improvement. Students are strongly encouraged to find their articles early in the course.

Use a parenthetical format to refer to references in the term paper. Provide references at the end of the term paper using the format found in this course outline (except with the author's last name first). Do not use footnotes. Do not use endnotes. There will be exactly three references: 1) for the theory, 2) for the critique, and 3) for the theoretical improvement. You may also refer to the readings used in this course if you wish, but these do not count as a reference, although you do need to list them. The term paper should be about ten pages long (2,500 words). The term paper is worth 30% of the final grade.

The term paper is due in class on Thursday, March 26. If you submit your term paper on time, your term paper will be returned, with your mark and my comments, at the last class on Thursday, April 2. Do not submit the term paper by email. There is no penalty for a late term paper; ultimately and absolutely the term paper must be received by 3:00 pm Monday, April 6 directly in my mailbox. A term paper will not be accepted after this deadline unless there is a legitimate reason: a medical reason or a death in the family. If you submit your term paper after March 26, you must hand it directly to me or place it directly in my mailbox in the sociology department on the fifth floor of the DAWB building. Do not hand it in at the sociology department. Do not submit it by email. Students are required to keep a printed copy and an electronic copy of their term paper.

All term papers must be submitted to www.turnitin.com by the due date using the following information. If your term paper is not submitted to turnitin by the due date, the mark for the term paper will be zero.

class name: SY224B
class ID: 2533690
password: workers
assignment: termpaper