

Fall 2019  
**Social Networks & Organizations**  
SOC 361  
1:20-2:50 TuTh  
Sage 2218

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### **Course Description**

This class will provide an overview of two popular sociological concepts: social networks and organizations. Social networks refer to a set of relationships between individuals, while organizations constitute a particular type of social network—a set of relationships brought together under a common purpose, distinguishing members from non-members. We will review core concepts within these literatures, classic pieces of research, as well as looking at how networks and organizations impact contemporary social life.

### **UWO Bulletin Description**

Theoretical and empirical analysis of the role that social networks and formal organizations play in modern social life and society. Prerequisites: Sociology 101, 151, or 203, or consent of instructor.

### **Course Expectations**

- You will attend class regularly, show up on time, and participate in discussion.
- All assigned readings must be read before class begins (so, for example, I expect you to read Milgram before class begins on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, not afterwards as an assignment). See more information below regarding Reading Summaries.
- No laptops or cell phones allowed during class. Exceptions for laptops will be made on a case-by-case basis if you discuss your needs with me.
- You should regularly check your email and Canvas course site for updates about the class.
- You will reference the Sociology Department's Writing & Citation Guide when formatting writing assignments, where applicable.

### **Required Texts**

There is one required book for this course, which should be available at University Books & More or online.

- W. Richard Scott. *Organizations: Rational, Natural, and Open Systems*. Fifth edition. Prentice Hall.

### **Short Projects**

There will be several short project assignments this semester that will give you a sense of how social network research is conducted and analyzed. These projects will either require you to do direct analysis or collect data that will be used in class for illustration and discussion.

### **Quizzes**

There will be three short in-class quizzes throughout the semester, with questions testing your knowledge of both assigned readings as well as class discussion/lecture. Penalties will apply to make-ups without documentation and/or discussion with me prior to the scheduled quiz.

### **Papers**

There are two 3-5 page papers (in addition to the film reviews discussed below) that you will complete in this course: the personal network analysis and the complex organizations analysis. I will provide you with more details in class on the expectations of these assignments.

### **Film Reviews**

We will watch two films this semester as reference to explore concepts covered in class. I will provide you with more details in class on the expectations of these assignments.

### **Jigsaw Reading Groups**

At certain points in the semester, we will be separating into separate reading groups where different students will be assigned different readings. You will be responsible for teaching your assigned reading to classmates who have not read the material (and you will learn from them material you missed out on). You will be assessed on both your participation in-class during assigned dates as well as how well you communicate your assigned material to your classmates.

### **Attendance & Participation**

You are expected to attend class regularly, ready to discuss any assigned reading or present any assigned homework activity.

### **Grading**

Short Projects (3)	15%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Jigsaws	15%
Personal Network Analysis	15%
Film Reviews (2)	20%
Complex Orgs Analysis	10%
Attendance & Participation	10%

Your final grade will be computed on the following percentage scale:

A	92.5-100%
A-	90.0-92.49
B+	87.5-89.99
B	82.5-87.49
B-	80.0-82.49

C+	77.5-79.99
C	72.5-77.49
C-	70.0-72.49
D+	67.5-69.99
D	62.5-67.49
D-	60.00-62.49
F	0-59.99

## **Schedule**

### Week 1

Sept 5 (Thursday)      Introduction to the Course

### Week 2

Sept 10 (Tuesday)      Relational Sociology

Sept 12 (Thursday)      *Reading:* Milgram – “Small-World Problem”  
***DUE:*** Short Project #1 (Six Degrees of Separation)  
*Homework:* fill out class-based sociogram survey

### Week 3

Sept 17 (Tuesday)      *Reading:* Granovetter – “Strength of Weak Ties”  
*Exercise:* class sociogram

Sept 19 (Thursday)      Form *Contexts* jigsaw groups (#1)

### Week 4

Sept 24 (Tuesday)      ***DUE:*** Short Project #2 (Marriage & Relationships Interviews)  
**Quiz 1**

Sept 26 (Thursday)      *Contexts* jigsaw (#1)

### Week 5

Oct 1 (Tuesday)      Personal Network Assignment overview (print copies & bring to class)

Oct 3 (Thursday)      Thompson – “Are Your Friends Making You Fat?”

### Week 6

- Oct 8 (Tuesday) Chan Tack & Small (2017) – “Making Friends in Violent Neighborhoods”  
boyd (2011) – “White Flight in Networks Publics”
- Oct 10 (Thursday) **DUE:** Short Project #3  
*Reading:* Bakshy – “Exposure to ideologically diverse news and opinion”

### Week 7

- Oct 15 (Tuesday) *Reading:* Kidd – “Social Media, Art, and the Network Society”  
**Quiz 2**
- Oct 17 (Thursday) *Optional reading:* Fourcade and Healy – “Seeing like a market”  
**DUE:** Personal Network Analysis  
*Film:* Black Mirror episode

### Week 8

- Oct 22 (Tuesday) *Film and Assignment Review*  
Form *Contexts* jigsaw groups (#2)
- Oct 24 (Thursday) Work Day

### Week 9

- Oct 29 (Tuesday) *Contexts* jigsaw (#2)  
**DUE:** Film Review 1
- Oct 31 (Thursday) Scott ch. 1(Jigsaw)

### Week 10

- Nov 5 (Tuesday) Scott ch. 2 (Jigsaw)
- Nov 7 (Thursday) Scott ch. 3 (Jigsaw)

### Week 11

Nov 12 (Tuesday)     Scott ch. 4 (Jigsaw)

Nov 14 (Thursday)     Film (*Moneyball*)  
**Quiz 3**

### Week 12

Nov 19 (Tuesday)     Film and Assignment Review

Nov 21 (Thursday)     Ritzer – *McDonaldization*  
Review Complex Orgs Assignment

### Week 13

Nov 26 (Tuesday)     **DUE: Film Review 2**

Nov 28 (Thursday)     No class (Thanksgiving Recess)

### Week 14

Dec 3 (Tuesday)     Data Collection: Complex Orgs Analysis

Dec 5 (Thursday)     Work Day

### Week 15

Dec 10 (Tuesday)     **DUE: Complex Orgs Analysis**