

Communication 446 - 900: Communication, Organization, and Society
Fall 2008, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:20 PM to 3:35 PM
Bolton Hall 105

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Thursdays from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
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Organizations influence all aspects of society—community, family, work, governance, entertainment, health, and well-being. By offering an understanding of the many relationships between organizing and society, this course aims to help us better navigate our civic, familial, and personal duties and prepare us to help manage the organizing in which we will find ourselves. By the end of the course, we will accomplish the following:

Learning Objectives

- Understand organizations and organizing as independent variables in societal processes.
- Master models of organizations, organizing, and interorganizational communication.
- Review major bodies of empirical macromorphic research and theory.
- Learn what macromorphic means.
- Apply an understanding of organizing to key domains of society.
- Develop facilitation and dialogue skill-base.
- Understand writing as a creative *process*.
- Hone critical reading skills using the Adler model of reading.
- Hone writing skills through short essays using 5-paragraph form and major course project.

Course Format

This senior-level course is both reading and writing intensive. Students should expect between 50 and 250 pages of challenging reading each week. Daily class meetings will consist of structured discussion where students do most of the talking addressing and building on readings questions provided beforehand. Students should expect to write approximately 40-50 pages over the course of the semester. Students should also expect to provide careful, respectful, and thoughtful feedback to their colleagues during class and through peer-review of writing assignments. Students should also be sure they are familiar

with the TAMU's eLearning resources (i.e., Blackboard Vista), because we will use it throughout the course. Students should check the course site regularly.

Course Texts

The course has three required textbooks as well as additional required book chapters and journal articles that will be available online as the course progresses. The required textbooks are George Ritzer's (2008) *The McDonaldization of society 5* (ISBN: 1412954304), Nicole Woolsey Biggart's (1989) *Charismatic capitalism* (ISBN: 0226047865), and Lee Clarke's (1999) *Mission improbable: Using fantasy document to tame disaster* (ISBN: 0226109429). Please use only these editions. Make no substitutions.

Course Work

Examinations – We will have two exams. The exams will be timed, open-note exams taken online. The exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay components. The exams will focus on the primary arguments and insights in the readings, class activities, and discussion. Exams cover material from the immediate previous unit; however, because the course builds on material as we cover it, the exams are cumulative. During exams students may explain in writing the logic behind their choice on any question. If their argument is correct, they will receive credit even if their choice is not.

Research Paper – Students will draft and revise an 8-10-page, research paper. The paper should focus on and develop one of the topics reviewed in class.

Laboratory Assignments – Through out the semester, students will complete short projects and post their results online. All laboratory grades will be averaged equally to determine the overall laboratory grade.

Performance Evaluation

Course grades will be determined by the (weighted) average of the grades on all course work using the following breakdown:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Research Paper Draft	10%
Research Paper Revision	20%
Laboratory Assignments	20%

Important (Tentative) Dates

These dates are subject to change with 24 hours notice, but dates may only be postponed.

- Exam #1: Due online between September 30th and October 2nd at 11:59 PM
- Exam #2: Due online between November 18th and 20th at 11:59 PM
- Research Paper Draft Due November 25th online and in class by 2:20 PM
- Paper Revision Due December 10th online by 2:59 PM

Each assignment and exam will receive a letter grade, with numerical equivalents as follows:

	A = 4.0	A- = 3.667
B+ = 3.333	B = 3.0	B- = 2.667
C+ = 2.333	C = 2.0	C- = 1.667
D+ = 1.333	D = 1.0	D- = 0.667
	F = 0.0	

So, for example, a student who receives a C- on the first exam, a B on the second, and an A- on the draft, an A on the revision, and a B- on their laboratory work would have a course average of 2.8669. ($1.667 \cdot .25 + 3.000 \cdot .25 + 3.667 \cdot .10 + 4.000 \cdot .20 + 2.667 \cdot .20 = 2.8669$).

To convert the course average into a course grade, the following scale will apply:

Course Average	Course Grade
3.5000 and up	A
2.5000 and up	B
1.5000 and up	C
0.3335 and up	D
below 0.3335	F

A student with a course average of 2.8669 would receive a course grade of B.

Tentative Course Outline

1. Understanding organizations and organizing
2. Politics: The machines behind the candidates
3. Organizing and work and family

Exam 1

4. Government: Contractors, civil servants, and citizens
5. Healthcare
6. Disasters and other crises

Exam 2

A Selection of Relevant University and Course Policies

Enrollment

To participate and receive a grade in the course, you must be enrolled. Students may not attend without being enrolled.

Communication

In this course, email will often be an expedient form of communication, but it has limits. Email is most appropriate for asking brief clarifying questions, arranging meetings, clarifying course policy, and providing notification of an emergency. However, whenever you send an email regarding the course, be sure to consider whether or not email is the best medium. The following will NOT be discussed over email: Feedback on exams, grades, and complex questions about course material. It is against University policy (and in some cases Federal law) for faculty to discuss or disperse grades via email, and most of these issues require the careful, thoughtful sort of discussion that can happen face-to-face.

Late Work

Examinations must be completed when scheduled. No make-up examinations will be administered, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency or religious holiday. When such problems are encountered, notify your instructors at the earliest possible time. Late assignments may still be turned in for feedback, but each day late results in third of a letter grade penalty. For example, an assignment that would have otherwise been marked a B+ that was two days late would receive a B- instead. Without an acceptable excuse (i.e., factors completely beyond your control), a missed assignment or exam will receive a failing grade (F).

Attendance, Punctuality, and Preparedness

Students must be present, must be on time, and must be ready to learn. If students miss class, it is their responsibility to make up any course material missed by working with classmates and doing additional readings and assignments. This course has no make-up lectures or course notes. If students fail to arrive to class on time or if they arrive unprepared, they may be asked to leave class.

Excessive Absence from the Course

Missing more than eight class times or the equivalent (e.g., missing 10 hours of the course because of lateness) may be cause for failing the course.

Students with Disability

All necessary and appropriate academic accommodations required will be made if you are a student with a disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-

discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu> and contact your instructor as soon as possible to make accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. The Aggie code is quite clear: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

In particular, students sometimes unknowingly commit plagiarism by failing to cite work they are using. All work that you do not create yourself including but not limited to websites, news articles, journal articles, lectures, and interviews must be cited properly using the American Psychological Association’s (APA’s) 5th edition style. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism. Penalties for academic dishonesty can include expulsion from the University, failing the course, and failing assignments.

For more information see <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.