Sociology (SOCI) 300

How Humans Organize: From Primary Groups to the World Wide Web (Revision 3)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** ⧉ for the current revision ✖
Delivery mode:	**Individualized study** ⧉ with **eText** ⧉
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Social Science
Prerequisites:	**SOCI 287** or **SOCI 288** is strongly recommended.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	SOCI 300 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** ⧉

Overview

SOCI 300 has been designed for students who have already taken introductory courses in Sociology and who are, therefore, familiar with the basic concepts, theories, and methods of the discipline. This course introduces the representative concepts, definitions, typologies, and theories associated with the study of organizations, and shows how these conceptual tools may be used to analyze particular social organizations. This course also provides students with the opportunity to examine case studies in a number of areas, including public and private sector bureaucracies, total institutions, such as prisons, mental hospitals, the military, detention centres, and even residential schools for indigenous children. This course will also examine the rise of post-bureaucratic organizations and virtual organizations, all made possible through the revolutions in information technology, micro-electronics, and mobile telecommunications.

Outline

- Unit 1: Why Study Organizations?

- Unit 2: The Many Faces of Social Organization

- Unit 3: Inside the Iron Cage: Bureaucracy and Modern Life

- Unit 4: Managing the Organization: The View from Above

- Unit 5: Coping in the Organization: The View from Below

- Unit 6: Total Institutions: Remaking People in Organizations

- Unit 7: Women within the Iron Cage: Sex, Gender, and Organizations

- Unit 8: Virtual Organizations

- Unit 9: Corporations and Globalization

- Unit 10: Beyond Bureaucracy: In Search of Organizational Democracy

Evaluation

To **receive credit** ⤢ for Sociology 300, you must achieve a grade of 60 percent or better on the final examination and an overall course composite

grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** 🗎 . Should you obtain less than the required grade on the final examination, or if you wish to attempt to increase your overall grade, you may write a supplemental final examination. A passing grade of 60 percent is also required for the supplemental examination.

There are four written assignments in SOCI 300; however, only the grades for three (3) of them will be applied toward your final composite grade for the course. You may, therefore, choose to complete only three written assignments. Alternatively, you may decide to complete all four, in which case only the three highest grades will be used to determine your final composite grade. The three written assignments each count for twenty per cent of the final course grade.

Please refer to your Assignment and Examination Manual on your course home page.

Activity	Weight	Complete by
Assignment 1	20%	After Unit 3
Assignment 2	20%	After Unit 5
Assignment 3	20%	After Unit 8
Assignment 4		After Unit 10
Online Quiz	10%	After Unit 10
Final Exam	30%	After Unit 10
Total	**100%**	

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** ⬀ section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** 🔗 .

Materials

Ritzer, George. *The McDonaldization of Society*, 10th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. 📱 (eText)

Bakan, Joel. 2004. *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*. Penguin 📖 (Print)

Goffman, Erving. 1961. *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. New York: Random House. 📖 (Print)

Mills, Albert J., Tony Simmons, and Jean Helms Mills. 2005. *Reading Organization Theory: A Critical Approach to the Study of Organizational Behaviour and Structure*. 3rd ed. Aurora, ON: Garamond. 📖 (Print)

Shirky, Clay 2008. *Here Comes Everybody: The Power Of Organizing Without Organizations*. New York, NY: Penguin Books. 📖 (Print)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks** 🔗 , please refer to our **eText Initiative site** 🔗 .

Online materials

Athabasca University Materials

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** ☐ can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** ☐ for the SOCI 300 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** 🗎 on the challenge examination. The two parts of the exam must be written on the same day.

🗎 **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

> **Questions about our Program** ☐

> **Academic advising** ☐

> **Program planning** ☐

> **Request assistance** ☐

> **Support services** ☐

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 3, June 16, 2015

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View **previous revision** ☐