Introduction

The class is for Ph.D. students in the social and behavioral sciences who have an interest in organizational theory and economic sociology. There are no formal prerequisites, however.

The seminar will be run like a workshop. This means that your projects are really the subject matter for the class. My goal is that each of you is able to use the seminar to write a master's paper, a Ph.D. proposal, a publishable article, or even a dissertation! The advantage of taking this class is that other students and myself will be available to provide feedback and suggestions. Hopefully, that will result in a much higher quality product. Your grade will be based on whether or not you accomplish the goals that you set out for yourself at the start. That is 100% of your grade. At the end of the semester you can either take the grade I give you or an incomplete.

Over the first eight weeks we will alternate between student proposals and reviewing some basic theory and design issues in organizational research. You are each required to take responsibility for one EXAMPLE. You need to make a 20 minute presentation. You should summarize the paper and give your reactions to it in light of the readings for the week. Email me two or three ranked preferences once you decide. (First come, first served.) You will also be asked to do some homework but the assignment will be fun and interesting. It should also help you later in your career. We will go over the topics the first day of class.

The eighth week (February 27th) will be spent going over proposals for this class. By that time, you need to select a topic, which is related to your research. You need to select background readings for the other students (two or three articles/books for students to read beforehand) so we can get them up on reserves. You will also need to decide on a tentative title for your paper. You then need to decide when you want to present. You will put these all together in a proposal. The proposal should also state your goals for the semester and what you want to be graded on. You will present the proposal in class (10 minute presentation and 10 minutes Q&A) and submit a two page proposal to me on February 27th. Write the proposal as a Word document and send it to me as an email attachment.

After spring break each of you will be responsible for two classes. This is necessary in order to get a grade, however, you will not be graded on the class per se. If you are auditing, are you required to make a presentation? No, but I’m not sure why you are here if not to make a presentation to others.
As a class presenter, you will need to fill up 90 minutes (2 forty-five minute sessions) of class time. During the first class, you will lead the discussion and organize everything (with my help, of course). You will then present your theory and discuss your methodology. The second class will be the presentation of your results. This will be your final paper project. Class presentations will begin on March 20th.

Finally, there is the sticky issue of participation. Are you expected to attend every class? Are you expected to do the readings and read the student papers? Yes. I have no way of enforcing this, but it seems terribly unfair if others come to hear you and you do not come to hear them. (If you want to skip out on a class that I am presenting, no hard feelings.)

There are all sorts of rules and regulations about cheating and plagiarism. Don’t do it.

Class Schedule

January 9th  
Introduction

January 16th  
Observation, Theory, and Hypothesis Testing


January 23rd  
Kinds of theory: Demographic and Functional Theories


Practice: Organizational Data Sets and Research Designs
January 30th  Kinds of Theory: Environmental / Theories


Practice: Key Variables and Measurement

February 6th  Kinds of Theory: Network Theories


Practice: Analytic Techniques

February 13th  Getting Ahead in the World of Academic Scholarship

Erin Leahey, Bruce Keith, and Jason Crockett. 2010. “Gendered Academic Careers: Specializing for Success.” Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, 28:135-155. (Angela)


Practice: What Do Journals Want?

February 20th  Class cancelled

February 27th  Student Proposals
March 6th  Individual consultations

March 20th  Student Presentations I:


Paul Murray, "Understanding Mobile Musicians: Touring Structure, Status, and Genre."


March 27th  Student Presentations I:

Eric Bjorklund, “E-politics: the political struggle for e-commerce sales tax policy.”


April 3rd  Student Presentations I:

Angela Addae, “Straddling the Fence: Social Enterprises, Organizational Form, and Sectoral Choice.”


Kate Anderson, "Urban Inequalities and the Spatial Distribution of Recreational Facilities."

April 10th  
**Student Presentations**


April 17th  
**Student Presentations II:**

*Kate Anderson*, "Urban Inequalities and the Spatial Distribution of Recreational Facilities."


*Eric Bjorklund*, “E-politics: the political struggle for e-commerce sales tax policy.”


April 24th  
**Student Presentations II:**


*Kyle Puetz*, “Operationalizing ‘The Strength of Weak Culture’: A Reexamination of the Effects of Cultural Tastes on Personal Networks.”


May 1st  
**Student Presentations II:**

*Angela Addae*, “Straddling the Fence: Social Enterprises, Organizational Form, and Sectoral Choice.”

**Paul Murray**, "Understanding Mobile Musicians: Touring Structure, Status, and Genre."