

03/13/13

Sociology 596a  
Topics in Organizational Analysis  
Spring, 2013  
Wed, 3:30-6:00 PM

Joseph Galaskiewicz  
Social Science 434  
[galaskie@email.arizona.edu](mailto:galaskie@email.arizona.edu)  
Tel: 621-7084  
Office hours: T, 3:00-6:00

## **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 27<sup>th</sup>) 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup>                      Introduction**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>                      Observation, Theory, and Hypothesis Testing**

Arthur L. Stinchcombe. 1968. "Introduction" and "The Logic of Scientific Inference." Constructing Social Theories. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and World. Pp. 3-56.

Bernard P. Cohen. 1980. "From Simple Knowledge Structures to Theories." Developing Sociological Knowledge: Theory and Method. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. Pp. 170-191.

EXAMPLE: Peter Blau. 1972. "Interdependence and Hierarchy in Organizations." Social Science Research, 1:1-24.

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Kinds of theory: Demographic and Functional Theories**

Arthur L. Stinchcombe. 1968. "Complex Causal Structures: Demographic, Functional, and Historicist Explanations of Social Phenomena." Constructing Social Theories. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and World. Pp. 57-101.

EXAMPLE: Oliver Williamson. 1981. "The Economics of Organization: The Transaction Cost Approach." American Journal of Sociology, 87:548-577. **(Kate)**

EXAMPLE: Michael T. Hannan and John H. Freeman. 1977. "The Population Ecology of Organizations," American Journal of Sociology, 82: 929-64. **(Kyle)**

**Practice: Organizational Data Sets and Research Designs**

**January 30th                      Kinds of theory: Environmental / Theories**

Arthur L. Stinchcombe. 1968. "The Conceptualization of Environmental Effects." Constructing Social Theories. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and World. Pp. 201-31.

James S. Coleman. 1990. "Meta theory: Explanation in Social Science." Foundations of Social Theory. Cambridge, MA: Belknap/Harvard University Press.

EXAMPLE: Paul DiMaggio and Walter W. Powell. 1983. "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields." American Sociological Review, 48:147-160. **(Krista)**

**Practice: Key Variables and Measurement**

**February 6th                      Kinds of Theory: Network Theories**

Joseph Galaskiewicz. 2007. "Editorial: Has a Network Theory of Organizational Behavior Lived Up to its Promises?" Management and Organization Review, 3:1-18.

EXAMPLE: Mark Granovetter. 1985. "On the Social Embeddedness of Economic Exchange." American Journal of Sociology, 91:481-510. **(Karina)**

EXAMPLE: Ronald S. Burt. 2005. Brokerage and Closure: An Introduction to Social Capital. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1. **(Eric)**

**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)**

Erin Leahey. 2007. "Not by Productivity Alone: How Visibility and Specialization Contribute to Academic Earnings." American Sociological Review, 72:533-561. **(Paul)**

**Practice: What Do Journals Want?**

**February 20th                      Class cancelled**

**February 27<sup>th</sup>                      Student Proposals**

**March 6th**                    **Individual consultations**

**March 20th**                **Student Presentations I:**

**Kyle Puetz, "Operationalizing 'The Strength of Weak Culture': A Reexamination of the Effects of Cultural Tastes on Personal Networks."**

Mark, Noah. 1998. "Birds of a Feather Sing Together." *Social Forces* 77(2): 453-485.

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

Lena, Jennifer C., and R. A. Peterson. 2008. "Classification as Culture: Types and Trajectories of Music Genres." *American Sociological Review* 73(5):697-718.

**March 27th**                **Student Presentations I:**

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

Ingram, Paul and Hayagreeva Rao. 2004. "Store Wars: The Enactment and Repeal of Anti-Chain Store Legislation in America." *American Journal of Sociology* 110:446-487

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**                    **Student Presentations I:**

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

Galaskiewicz, Joseph and Sondra N. Barringer. 2012. "Social Enterprises and Social Categories." In Gidron, Benjamin and Yehekel Hasenfield. Eds. *Social Enterprises: An Organizational Perspective*. Palgrave/Macmillan. pp. 47-70.

Weisbrod, Burton. 1998. "Institutional Form and Organizational Behavior." In *Private Action and the Public Good*. Walter Powell and Elisabeth Clemens, eds. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

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

Wilson, William Julius. 1987. *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2

**April 10th                      Student Presentations**

**Krista Frederico, "Fertile Fields: The Impact of the Pro-Choice Movement on Adoption Organizations' Services and Frames, 1976 – 2000"**

King, Brayden G. and Nicolas A. Pearce. 2010. "The Contentiousness of Markets: Politics, Social Change, and Institutional Change in Markets." Annual Review of Sociology 36:249-267.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>                      Student Presentations II:**

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

Moore, Latetia V., Ana V. Diez Roux, Kelly R. Evenson, Aileen P. McGinn, Shannon J. Brines. 2008. "Availability of Recreational Resources in Minority and Low Socioeconomic Status Areas." American Journal of Preventive Medicine 34(1):16–22.

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

Ragin, Charles C. 2004. "Turning the Tables: How Case-Oriented Research Challenges Variable-Oriented Research," Chapter 8 in Brady and Collier (eds.) *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Rowman and Littlefield.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>                      Student Presentations II:**

**Krista Frederico, "Fertile Fields: The Impact of the Pro-Choice Movement on Adoption Organizations' Services and Frames, 1976 – 2000"**

Weber, Klaus, Kathryn Heinze, and Michaela DeSoucey. 2008. "Forage for Thought: Mobilizing Codes in the Movement for Grass-fed Meat and Dairy Products." Administrative Science Quarterly 53(3): 529-567.

**Kyle Puetz, "Operationalizing 'The Strength of Weak Culture': A Reexamination of the Effects of Cultural Tastes on Personal Networks."**

Lizardo, Omar. 2006. "How Cultural Tastes Shape Personal Networks." American Sociological Review 71(4): 778-807.

**May 1st                      Student Presentations II:**

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

Kittilaksanawong, W., C.S. Hu, Y.Y. Shou, and X.D. Chen. 2012. "Institutionalization in Organizational Form of Social Entrepreneurship: Cases from China and Bangladesh." Conference publication from the 2012 IEEE International Conference on Management of Innovation and Technology (ICMIT) on June 11-13, 2012, pp. 39- 44.

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

Giuffre, K. 1999. "Sandpiles of Opportunity: Success in the Art World." Social Forces 77(3):815–32.