

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Faculty of Social Science
Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies
2010-2011

Management and Organizational Studies (MOS) 2280f
Organizational Behaviour: Theoretical Foundations

1.0 Course Information

Course Time: Tuesday, 9:30-12:30

Lecture Location: Talbot College Room 309

Calendar Description

“An overview and evaluation of the most influential theoretical frameworks in the field of organizational behavior from its beginnings to the present. Applications to the workplace are examined.”

The particular focus of this course is Evidence-Based Management, which has been described as “enhanc[ing] the overall quality of organizational decisions and practices through reflective use of relevant and best available scientific evidence.” (Evidence-Based Management Collaborative, 2010). In MOS 2280, we will consider problem identification and representation, relevant theory and findings from the organizational behaviour knowledge base, and the design and implementation of interventions.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Prerequisite: Enrolment in BMOS.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2.0 Instructor information

Instructor: Dr. James O’Brien, Assistant Professor
Office: Social Science Centre 3212
Office Hours: To be announced, in class
Email (preferred): jobrie3@uwo.ca (**please include “MOS 2280” in the subject line of your emails**)

Course Website: <http://webct.uwo.ca/>

Instructional librarian: Kim McPhee
Email: kmcphee5@uwo.ca

3.0 Course syllabus

In your previous organizational behaviour courses (e.g., MOS 2180) you learned about human behaviour in organizations at the individual, group, and organizational levels of analysis. In Organizational Behaviour: Theoretical Foundations we will build on this knowledge base, focusing on how key theories and research findings can inform management practice. Through an evidence-based management framework, you will learn a) how to apply key theoretical frameworks to organizational problems, b) how to evaluate evidence that can inform management practice, and c) how to develop informed positions on a range of issues in the field of organizational behaviour.

Classes will include lectures, team presentations, and exercises. Throughout the course, there will be a substantial focus on class discussions. As such, students should come to class fully prepared to discuss the weekly readings and to make meaningful contributions to class discussions. **This is a demanding course that requires preparation, critical thinking, and active engagement with the learning process.**

The content of the course is summarized in the following table.

Week	Dates	Session	Remarks
1	Sep 14	Messes and problems	Introduction and in-class exercises
2	Sep 21	Evidence & evidence	Read Briner et al in course reader
3	Sep 28	Analysis	Read Risen & Gilovich in course reader
4	Oct 5	Quiz No.1, in-class Presentation	Read Ellet in course reader
5	Oct 12	Selection	Read Schmidt & Hunter in course reader
6	Oct 19	Report outline due, in class Motivation	Read Latham in course reader
7	Oct 26	Groups and teams	Read Kozlowski & Illgen in course reader
8	Nov 2	Organizational justice	Read Colquitt in course reader
9	Nov 9	Guest	
10	Nov 16	Report due at start of class Organizational design	in-class materials from Galbraith
11	Nov 23	Organizational change	Read Cialdini excerpts in course reader
12	Nov 30	Quiz No.2, in-class Program evaluation	Skim Kellogg materials, from link posted on WebCT
13	Dec 7	Consolidation of Learning; Some thoughts on Evidence-Based Practice	Re-read Briner et al

4.0 Course materials

There is a reader for the course, available at InPrint on the lower level of the University Community Centre.

The contents of the course reader are as follows:

1. Briner, R.B., Denyer, D. & Rousseau, D.M. (2009). Evidence-based management: Construct clean-up time? *Academy of Management Perspectives*, 23, 4, 19-32
2. Risen, J. L., & Gilovich, T. (2007). Informal logical fallacies. In R. J. Sternberg, H. Roediger III, & D. Halpern (Eds.), *Critical Thinking in Psychology* (pp. 110-130). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
3. Ellet, W. (2007). Problem Essays. In *The Case Study Handbook* (pp. 119-133). Boston: Harvard Business School Press.
4. Schmidt, F.L. and Hunter, J.E. (1998). The Validity and Utility of Selection Methods in Personnel Research: Practical and Theoretical Implications of 85 Years of Research Findings. *Psychological Bulletin*, 124, 262-274.
5. Latham, G. (2009). Motivate employee performance through goal setting. In Ed Locke, (ed). *Handbook of Principles of Organizational Behavior*, 2e. Blackwell, 161-178.
6. Kozlowski, S. W. J., & Ilgen, D. R. (2006). Enhancing the effectiveness of work groups and teams. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 7, 77–124.
7. Colquitt, J. A. (2008). Two decades of organizational justice: Findings, controversies, and future directions. In C. L. Cooper & J. Barling (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of organizational behavior: Volume 1 - Micro Approaches* (pp. 73-88). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
8. Excerpts from Cialdini, R.B. (2001). *Influence: Science and Practice*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Reciprocation (20-22)

Commitment and Consistency (53-55)

Social Proof (99-104)

Liking (144-148)

Authority (179-184)

Scarcity (204-208)

5.0 Evaluation

Summary of Course Evaluation

Course Requirement	% of Final Grade	Date
Quiz #1	10	Tuesday, Oct 5 (in class)
Report Outline	10	Tuesday, Oct 19 (due in class, hardcopy)
Report	30	Tuesday, Nov 16 (due in class, hardcopy)
Quiz #2	10	Tuesday, Nov 30 (in class)
Team Presentation	20	
Class Contribution	20	

*Note: Each of these course requirements will be described in greater detail in handouts and/or in class.

In-class Quizzes (20%; 2 x 10% each): There will be two in-class quizzes (one on Oct 5th and one on Nov 30th) based on content from the assigned readings, class presentations, class discussions, and class activities. You will have a maximum of one hour to complete each quiz.

Report Outline (10%): The report outline will consist of a one-page summary including the following: problem identification, outline of analysis and recommendations, and at least two research-based sources that will inform your analysis and recommendations. The report outline provides an opportunity for you to receive valuable feedback on your approach to the report scenario. The outline is due in class on Oct 19th.

Report (30%): Managerial work requires careful responses to issues and problems that arise in organizations. To practice these skills, you will write a report based on an organizational scenario provided to you. Your report will include an identification of the problem, an evidence-based analysis of the problem, and specific, actionable recommendations.

The report will be 8 to 10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) and conform to APA or MLA conventions of scholarly attribution. The report is due in class on Nov 30th.

Team Presentation (20%): The use of teams is very prevalent in organizations today, and developing your ability to work effectively in a team setting is invaluable. For the team presentation, students will form groups of 4 to 5 and present a content session from the course outline (see Class Schedule).

Presentations will involve summarizing and integrating content from material suggested by the instructor. Presentations should include some class involvement and will last no longer than 45 minutes. Each member of the team will receive the same grade.

Class Contribution (20%): This is not a traditional, lecture-based course. Students are expected to attend class, and to be prepared to discuss weekly readings by playing an active role in class discussions. This course seeks to foster a collaborative learning environment in which students learn from one another in addition to the instructor and course materials. Because students' contributions are considered critical to the success of the course, they comprise a sizeable portion of final grades. Students are expected to observe a standard of conduct that will support a classroom environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of their peers (see University of Western Ontario Code of Student Conduct at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>).

Procedures related to absence from requirements

Please see University of Western Ontario's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to meet your academic responsibilities, i.e., unable to write term tests or final examinations or complete course work by the due date, you should follow the instructions listed below. You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented before academic accommodation will be considered. Read the instructions carefully. In all cases, action must be taken at the earliest possible opportunity, preferably prior to the scheduled examination, test or assignment.

1. Check the course outline to see if the instructor has a policy for missed tests, examinations, late assignments or attendance. The course outline should include the preferred method of contact (e-mail, phone, etc.).
2. Inform the instructor prior to the date of the scheduled time of the test or examination or due date of the assignment. If you are unable to contact the instructor, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
3. Bring your request for accommodation to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office, Room 2105, Social Science Centre, telephone 519 661-2011 or fax 519 661-3384. Be prepared to submit documentation of your difficulties.
4. If you decide to write a test or an examination you should be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis is not permitted.

Term tests and mid-term exams

1. If you are unable to write a term test, inform your instructor (preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test). If the instructor is not available, leave a message for him/her at the department office.
2. Be prepared, if requested by the instructor, to provide supporting documentation. Submit your documentation to the Social Science Academic Counselling Office.
3. Make arrangements with your professor to reschedule the test.
4. The Academic Counselling Office will contact your instructor to confirm your documentation.

Short absences

If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outlines for

information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate.

Extended Absences

If you are absent more than approximately two weeks or if you get too far behind to catch up, you should consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses. This must be done by the appropriate deadlines. (Refer to the Registrar's website for official dates.) The Social Science Academic Counsellors can help you to consider the alternatives. At your request, they can also keep your instructors informed of your difficulties.

Documentation

1. **Personal Illness:** If you consulted Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should complete a Records Release Form at the time of your visit allowing them to notify Social Science Academic Counselling Office. Once your documentation has been assessed, the academic counsellor will inform your instructor that academic accommodation is warranted.
2. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The doctor must provide verification of the severity of the illness for the period in question. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.
3. **In Case of Serious Illness of a Family Member:** Obtain a medical certificate from the family member's physician.
4. **In Case of a Death:** Obtain a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director.
5. **For Other Extenuating Circumstances:** If you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask an Academic Counsellor.

Note: Forged notes and certificates will be dealt with severely. To submit a forged document is a scholastic offense and you will be subject to academic sanctions.

Academic concerns

1. You need to know if your instructor has a policy on late penalties, missed tests, etc. This information may be included on the course outline. If not, ask your instructor.
2. You should also be aware of attendance requirements in courses such as Business and English. You can be debarred from writing the final examination if your attendance is not satisfactory.
3. If you are in academic difficulty, check the minimum requirements for progression in your program. If in doubt, see your Academic Counsellor.
4. If you are registered in Social Science courses but registered in another faculty (e.g., Arts or Science), you should immediately consult the Academic Counselling Office in your home faculty for instructions.

Expectations and specific requirements

Student behaviour in the course is governed by The University of Western Ontario's Code of Student Conduct (November 26, 2009). As management students, the norms and standards of Canadian business practice are also relevant, and some time in class will be devoted to elaborating this important topic.

A fundamental expectation is that students will read the assigned chapter or materials prior to class. By analogy, you can think of this preparation as buying a ticket for each session. Sessions will selectively elaborate the readings, provide examples, introduce new and critical perspectives, and support integration of learning across the course as well as application.

Further expectations for this course are that students will be attentive and polite. Using cell phones or personal electronic devices in class (or laptop computers for purposes other than note-taking) is inconsistent with these expectations and is disruptive to the learning of others.

There is a strong normative expectation in the program and the Faculty that students attend all scheduled classes, barring emergencies and urgent personal matters that cannot be rescheduled. In this class in particular, given the emphasis on class contribution, attendance, alertness, and engagement are fundamental.

Overall, these expectations and requirements are designed to create an environment that is welcoming and conducive to learning for all, while helping to set the conditions for your success in the course, the MOS program, and beyond.

6.0 Additional Statements

Statement on the use of electronic devices

Subject to academic accommodation requests granted through SSD, electronic devices will not be permitted during tests and examinations.

Statement on academic offenses

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

Additionally:

“Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”

and

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Support services

The following websites are provided for units that provide support services to students:

Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Social Science Academic Counselling: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Development Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Note:

1. Portions of this outline were taken from the following sources: UWO Academic Calendar (2009), Previous MOS 2280 course outline by Leah Hamilton.
2. Version 31 Aug 10.

